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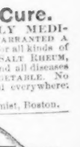

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER-----FOR THE FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

VOLUME {LI. OLD SERIES. XXVII. NEW SERIES.} BOSTON, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 20, 1872. ESTABLISHED, 1822. RE-ISSUED 1849. NUMBER 16.

New England Farmer.

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RUSSELL P. EATON, . . . GENERAL EDITOR.

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OUR subscribers will please note particularly the date opposite their names, on the paper. It signifies *the time to which they have paid*. By our terms, money paid after three months from such date must be at the rate of $3 a year. It is hardly necessary to add that $1.25 at the end of six months *pays for only five months' paper*. Money sent by mail, when properly sealed and directed, is at our risk. Money orders, or drafts for large amounts, payable to our order, are preferred.

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IN reply to inquiries, we would say that the FARMER will be sent to all subscribers until a discontinuance is ordered. The date to which payment is made is given on each paper, so that every subscriber can ascertain for himself the time when his subscription ends. All money sent us within three months of the commencement of the subscription will be regarded as in advance. We would also state that our *lowest and only terms* are given on our third page. We have no Club Terms. We have fixed our rates as low as the times will allow, and we give our readers their money's worth.

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Editorial.

OUR HIGHWAYS.

During the months of April and May is the time usually devoted to the repairs of highways in the country. This is the best time, perhaps, where surface repairs only are required. The ground is then loose, so that is easily removed, and is moist, so that materials added will be more readily compacted together and form a hard surface.

Where ruts are cut deeply,—as they are at present on many roads,—good gravel filled into them, will become incorporated in part with the old material, aided greatly by the moist condition of the earth, and thus form a tolerably good road. If the gravel, however, of which the ruts were originally composed, is worn out, that is, has been ground into a fine, powder-like condition, it should be taken away, and its place supplied by new, sharp gravel.

Under the management of country roads, surface repairs are too constantly required, are quite expensive, and when made are unsightly, sometimes dangerous, and nearly always inefficient. All these details spring from the unscientific and imperfect manner in which the road was originally constructed.

One day's work, however, even of this crude and unsubstantial mode of road-repairing, is worth as much in April or early May, if the season is a wet one, as two or three days' work would be in the summer. At one of the agricultural meetings in New Hampshire recently, Mr. SANBORN, of Croydon, stated that $25 in money expended at the proper time, would be worth as much as $100 in labor, under the old highway system.

When a road is dry, and has been trodden down as hard as the feet of horses, and the wheels of heavily loaded carriages could well make it, the surface is usually smooth. In this condition, whatever is added cannot be pressed into the road below, but is shifted about by winds and the teams that pass over it. This forms one of the worst roads we have, either for light carriages or heavy loads.

Unsatisfactory and expensive practices in road-making and repairing prevail all over New England, in a greater or less degree. They are continued because very few persons look upon road-making as a work requiring a very considerable amount of engineering knowledge and skill. Only a very few persons have taken the pains to inform themselves of the principles involved in making a good road, and of keeping it in good condition.

In making a *new* highway, the first and indispensable consideration, is that of so locating and constructing it that water shall never stand on it, or under it, to its detriment. There must be a free and constant drainage, or there can be no firm and permanent foundation, unless it be a deep one, like the abutments to a bridge. Without a firm foundation, the road will not long continue a good one, no matter how expensive and thorough the superstructure may be.

Provision must not only be made for passing off the water which falls on the surface, but that which percolates through the earth from springs, or that which passes through the banks of adjacent streams.

Even on some old roads which have been in use for fifty years, and whose repairs have been a burdensome tax, more good may be accomplished by a judicious drainage, at trifling cost, than by any additions of stones, sand or gravel. Taking away the surplus water will tend to dry the surface and prevent deep ruts and mud, by the action of frost, and will allow the whole road-bed to settle down into a firm mass, so as to resist the pressure of hoofs and wheels which pass over it.

Without *drainage*, wherever it is needed, no road will remain permanently good, even if it is otherwise unexceptionable in every particular.

With from fifty to sixty miles of roads to be annually repaired, as many of our New England towns have, the improvements upon them must be gradual. No town would subject itself to the cost of a thorough reform in one or two years. The good work may be commenced, however, and something done *in the right direction*, which will stand as an example for future operations.

If drainage has been accomplished, most of the common roads may be made quite acceptable by covering them with good gravel, which is entirely free from stones. It will be better economy to screen the gravel at the pit, and to haul it one or two miles, than to use loam from the road-sides or material from the sand banks, even if the bank be near at hand. The practice which is too common of hauling gravel and small stones upon the roads and spreading them there is dangerous to animals and carriages, and utterly ruinous to the road. No road bed can become firm and smooth under such circumstances. Scarcely anything else destroys a road so rapidly as small stones lying upon it. The natural wear, aided by frost, winds, and rains combined, do not injure it so much as the stones. When a wheel strikes one of them, it forces it into the face of the road, breaking it up, and when the wheel comes down it gouges out another hole, and so the work of destruction goes on with every passing team. All this is independent of the danger to horses and carriages, and the extreme discomfort of jolting over a stony road.

In speaking of our highways we did not intend to speak of the construction of *new* roads, but only to refer to the repairing of old ones. Nor will we go into the latter at any length. But we cannot close without referring again to the inefficient and expensive manner in which most of the roads are repaired. In the first place, the work is done too late in the season, after the roads have settled down into their summer condition, instead of the spring, when frost and rains have made them light and moist. Crowning the road too much is a common fault. In a highly crowned road there is usually but one track. In this, ruts are soon cut, so that turning out becomes difficult and dangerous. Difficult to get the wheels out of the ruts, and danger of turning over when they are out. This would especially be the case with heavy loads.

One great improvement can be commenced at once in every town, and with much economy,—and that is to do the work on the roads in the month of April; just as soon as the ground is settled so that it can be handled easily. Afterwards, repairs should be made, just as promptly as the railroad people make repairs on their roads, and *make them well*.

It should be the business of certain persons in every district of the town to see that all loose stones are removed, and give notice to the proper authorities of any larger defects that may occur.

While peparing the above, we were called into a neighboring town, and on the way we noticed eight streams coursing their way down the hills *in the middle of the road*. Some obstruction in the gutter had turned the water off into the road, where it was tearing up the gravel and taking it into a deep valley. It will probably require the time of a man and team three or four days to repair the damage done, all of which might have been prevented by a single man in half a day, if it had been attended to at the proper time.

If the farmer who has marketing to do, or the teamster who has heavy loads to transport, will remember that on a bad road it requires a horse power equal to *one-eighth* of the whole load to draw it, while on a good road it requires only *one-forty-fifth* of the weight of the load, they will be likely to take a decided interest in having good roads.

USE OF BONES AS MANURE.

The application of bones as a stimulant to field crops has become quite common, yet there are some who still remain skeptical as to their utility. Old prejudices are often with difficulty overcome. To those who have them we present the following statement, which we find in an English publication :—

"The Duke of Richmond, in one result of a chemical theory applied to the practice of farming, tried on a piece of land of his own, the oil of vitriol and bone dust, as recommended by Liebig, and the consequence is, he obtained a larger crop of turnips, at a cheaper rate, than ever before. In this case, he has spent only eleven shillings per acre, about $2.75, for manure, and has obtained twelve tons of turnips; whereas, in former cases, he has spent £3, $15.00, per acre on manures, and got only eleven and one-half tons of turnips per acre."

It is to be regretted that the precise quantity of each of the above substances—vitriol and bone dust—is not specifically stated, as without this important information, the mere knowledge that the two substances constitute, in connection, a valuable stimulant for the turnip crop, will not be likely to be productive of the beneficial results which a more accurate statement would have probably insured. It is asserted that the Duke spent £3 per acre for manures, and got only eleven and one-half tons of turnips; but we are not informed as to the specific character of the manure, nor of the method pursued in its application.

The following is doubtless the passage in Liebig's able work on which the Duke's experiment was predicated :—

"Now the manure of an acre of land with forty pounds of bone-dust, is sufficient to supply three crops of wheat, clover, potatoes, turnips, &c., with phosphates. But the *form* in which they are restored to the soil, does not appear to be a matter of indifference. For the more finely they are mixed with the soil, the more easily they are assimilated. The most easy and practical mode of procuring their division is by pouring over the bones, in a state of fine powder, half of their weight of sulphuric acid, diluted with three or four parts of water, and after they have been digested sometime to add one hundred parts of water, and sprinkle this mixture over the field before the plough. In a few seconds the free acids unite with the bases contained in the earth, and the neutral salt is formed in a very fine state of division."

This is a very economical method of applying bones, but we should prefer mixing the dissolved article with some dry substance, and applying it more directly to the crop. When reduced by grinding, as is now done, the use of sulphuric acid may be dispensed with, as the bone meal may be mingled with muck or loam, and slightly fermented in a short time, and then is easily made soluble for the crop.

In the discussion on wheat culture, at the late agricultural convention in Newport, N. H., Mr. PATTEE, of Warner, gave a formula for reducing bones, as follows :—place them in a large kettle, mixed with ashes and about one peck of lime to a barrel of bones. Cover with water and boil. In twenty-four hours all the bones, with the exception, perhaps, of the hard shin bones, will become so much softened as to be easily pulverized by hand. They will not be in particles of bone, but in a pasty condition, and in excellent form to mix with muck, loam or ashes. By boiling the shin bones ten or twelve hours longer, they will also become soft. This is an easy and cheap method of reducing bones. If the farmer will set aside a cask for the reception of bones in some convenient place, and throw all that are found on the farm into it, especially if one or two dead horses come into his possession, he will be likely to find a valuable collection at the end of the year, which would prove a valuable adjunct to the manure heap.

ROLLING GRAIN IN THE SPRING.

It is a practice with some grain growers to roll the young plants in the spring, which had got a start the preceding autumn. We believe it is practiced by extensive wheat growers in England. We have not tried it, and should be glad if some of our readers would experiment by rolling a portion of some fields of grain, and leaving a portion not rolled, and note the difference.

Frost occasionally throws wheat plants out of the ground, so that many of them perish. We can see that in such cases rolling would press many of them back into the soil, where their roots would find moisture, which would enable them to continue their growth. It would also close the cracks and fissures which abound as the surplus water of the soil dries off. Partially burying the crown of the plant would certainly cause the grain to tiller better, and send up more seed stalks.

Another advantage would be reducing the inequalities of surface, and still another in crowding small stones into the soil, if there are any, and getting them out of the way, if the grain is moved by hand, or by the mowing machine.

EARLY TURNIPS.—Those farmers who are sufficiently near a good market to drive in daily with a team, may find the cultivation of early white turnips a very profitable crop. We have known it to prove largely remunerative. They will require a warm, rich and mellow soil. The manure used should be well rotted, so as to afford nutriment at once to the plants. Good superphosphate of lime will be of essential service.

It is said that a mixture of lime, salt and ashes dusted on the young plants while the dew is on them, for several mornings in succession, will prevent the ravages of the little black fly which usually attacks them. The crop should be kept entirely free from grass and weeds, and the ground frequently stirred about the plants. When sufficiently grown, pull them without bruising the leaves, wash the bottoms clean, and tie in bunches. In this condition they will sell readily at high prices; much more than they will bring in selling by measure.

TREES ON THE ROAD SIDE.—The reader is referred to an excellent article under this title, by NATH'L T. ALLEN, Esq., of Newton. It was read before the Newton Horticultural Society, and will tend to arouse our people to give more attention to the important matter of which it treats. The farmer will find, as he states, that his cows will yield more and better milk, and his sheep more weight of carcase and wool, and both of better quality, where they can find shade whenever inclined to seek it. Cattle greatly prefer the shade of trees to that of sheds. In the latter they are in the shade, but the fresh, invigorating breezes are excluded, if the shed has sides, and out of the free air, flies will congregate to molest the animals.

All creatures like to go from sunshine to shade, and shade to sunshine at will, and when they can do so, are usually in a comfortable state, and in a favorable condition to thrive.

"A FOOL AND HIS MONEY ARE SOON PARTED." We do not wish to make any personal application of this old adage. Seeing the following paragraph reminded us of it however. It says, "A Kentucky paper gives an account of a $2000 hog pen built by a fancy farmer in Scott county. It states that it is painted and grained, furnished with hot and cold water, heated with steam and lighted with gas. The troughs are mahogany, inlaid with ivory."

We have seen stables for horses finished with Carolina pine, the strips of boards being only three inches wide, each, and beaded and highly varnished. What folly. Better put the cost into the soil.

The paragraph is undoubtedly a hit at friend Greeley, of the *Tribune*, who really knows much more about farming, than some of those who try to poke fun at him.

NORFOLK AG'L. SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of this Society, on the 27th ult., at Hyde Park, the following were chosen officers for the ensuing year:

President, Colonel Henry S. Russell of Milton; honorary president, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder of Dorchester; vice-presidents, Hon. Otis Cary of Foxborough, Stephen W. Richardson of Franklin, Elijah Vose of Milton, Henry Grew of Hyde Park, Ralph W. Turner of Randolph and Alonzo W. Cheever of Wrentham; corresponding and recording secretary, Henry O. Hildreth of Dedham; treasurer, Chauncey C. Churchill of Dedham; executive committee, William R. Mann of Sharon, Hon. Truman Clark of Walpole, Charles Breck of Milton, Alfred W. Whitcomb of Randolph, H. C. B. Walker of Roxbury, Alfred B. Balch of Medfield, William E. Coffin of Dorchester, Charles P. Curtis of West Roxbury and A. P. Calder of Dorchester; finance committee and auditors, Ira Cleveland of Dedham, Edward S. Rand, jr., of Dedham and William J. Stuart of Hyde Park. A board of Trustees was also elected, and resolutions of respect to the memory of the late Francis P. Denny were passed, and a resolution of thanks to Mr. John S. Eldridge, the retiring president.

HOW TO CURE A BALKY HORSE.—It is simply to place your hand over the horse's nose and shut off his wind until he wants to go, and then let him go. So says one who states that he has long tried it. The remedy is simple, always at hand, and a merciful one to the beast. Try it.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

LEGAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES—THE METRIC SYSTEM.

In the FARMER of February 17, you publish tables of legal weights of farm products in Massachusetts and New York.

Will you please publish the table of legal weights and measures of the United States, the constitution of which gives Congress power to "fix the standard of weights and measures." I saw a few days ago, an arithmetic published in Boston for the use of scholars in the schools, containing a statement that Congress passed a law in July, 1866, fixing such a standard. I do not recollect having seen any reference to such a law having been passed in any paper or other document whatever. If Congress has passed such a law, I do not see in the table of weights in Massachusetts or New York can be legal, if it differs from the United States tables, and if it don't differ from them, I can't see what is the use of having it.

The system adopted by Congress is called, I believe, an International or the Metric system. The names of the various parts are nearly new, or almost entirely different to all the names of our past system of weights and measures, and perhaps that is the reason why no notice has been taken of it; perhaps Congress did not provide that it should take effect on and after a certain date. The expense of altering all the apparatus for weighing and measuring will be considerable, but I think we shall like it after getting used to it.

H. COLMAN.

Woodville, Mass., March 16, 1872.

REMARKS.—In Appleton's American Annual Cyclopædia for 1866, you will find a full statement of the action of Congress on the subject of the Metric System, with tables and illustrations of the system, with names of the proposed measures and weights with their equivalents in denominations in use. The act simply declares that after its passage "it shall be lawful throughout the United States of America to employ the weights and measures of the Metric System, and no contract, or dealing, or pleading in any court, shall be deemed invalid, or liable to objection because the weights or measures expressed or referred to therein are weights or measures of the Metric System."

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to furnish to each State, to be delivered to the Governor thereof, one set of the standard weights and measures of the Metric System.

The law, then, simply permits the use of the International or Metric System, but does not make its use obligatory. Hence it does not supersede the weights and measures established by State authority.

SPOUTS AND EVAPORATORS.

There are two points in an article on sugar making, in FARMER of March 16, by Mr. Bliss, which to my uninformed mind need explanation. First, how can the Eureka spout save all the sap and not enter the hole, and yet hold the bucket? Secondly, as to the evaporator. How the sap runs in continuously is plain; but the syrup leaving in like manner, is not. I have a sugar orchard which I am preserving with like care with your sugar maker, and should like to make it profitable. Please explain, and oblige a subscriber.

Lovell, Oxford Co., Me., 1872. S. L. HATCH.

REMARKS.—Your inquiries were submitted to Mr. Bliss, who kindly responds as follows :—

The Eureka sap spout does enter the tree, but the portion which does so is triangular, the bearings being simple edges do not plug up the pores of the wood. The shoulder is oval and completely stops the hole by bearing against the bark. A small orifice through the centre of this permits the flow of the sap out into and down the spout. The peculiar shape of the spout secures a stronger hold upon the tree than if it was round and filled the hole. A wire hanger is attached for the bucket, or a style is furnished fitted for hanging the old style of fixtures, such as rings, &c., upon the spout without the use of the hanger. It is so constructed that no water running down the tree can get into the spout, and on the whole it is a very perfect thing.

Corey and Cook's Evaporator is a shallow pan with partitions, or, as the manufacturers call them, "ledges," running nearly across the pan, each alternate one from the opposite side, thus making a transverse channel in which the sap runs back and forth across the pan many times in passing from one end to the other. "Our sugar maker" uses one 15x4 feet, and the sap must cross over about twenty times. His cost, with grates, arch mouth, &c., about $120; but they are sold much cheaper now, though we do not know how much. A feeder or regulator governs the supply of sap, so that it is at all times of the same depth,—say about one inch,—whether there is much or little fire. Of course the very first syrup drawn off is not as sweet as after the work is well under way, and that may be returned to the forward end of the pan for reboiling; but when once going, the syrup is drawn off continuously and of any consistency to suit the operator. O. S. B.

CLOVER FOR PIGS.—FEAS TO BE SOWN BROADCAST.

What is the best kind of clover to sow for pigs, and how many pounds to the acre? Which is the best kind of peas to sow broadcast on rich, black loam? ERIEN F. WHITNEY.

Natick, Mass., March, 1872.

REMARKS.—*Clover.*—The common red clover we suppose to be the best for feeding to swine. We have used it for that purpose for many years. Ten times as much of it ought to be fed to the swine as there usually is. Ten to twelve pounds of seed per acre, is the quantity commonly used.

Peas.—A farmer who raises large quantities of peas informs us that the *black-eyed marrow* is the best he has ever used. It has a long pod; the peas are large and rich. It is not quite as early as the Dun O'Rourke, but is preferable in other respects.

HENS EATING EGGS.—WITCH GRASS.

"Subscriber," of Barnston, P. Q., complains that his hens lay but few eggs, and that they eat a part of them. The Editor's remarks were good, and I will only say that I have a few *young* hens, that have laid at intervals all winter, though kept in an open shed, and allowed to run in the yard every day. I have found by experiment, that Indian corn is the best feed to make hens lay. India wheat, oats or buckwheat will not answer. Corn contains much more oil, and consequently keeps them warmer, and it will also fatten faster than most grain. No doubt wheat would be equally as good. I have used peas and barley, and found them both good, but corn is better than either.

I usually set one or two hens *early*,—I have two setting now,—and from their broods I select my fowls for wintering. They almost invariably commence to lay in the fall, and we have fresh eggs every mild spell in winter. Old hens seldom lay till spring.

I use nest eggs made of porcelain or common earthenware. They are retailed here for three or four cents apiece, and frost does not injure them, nor can hens eat them.

In the FARMER of the 30th ult., "Subscriber" inquires about witch grass. I can inform him that if he should spend a summer here on a farm, he would not desire any further acquaintance with that species of *fodder*. It needs no seed. A piece of a healthy root, two inches long, set in a moist, rich spot, would soon furnish all he would want on his farm. If any one wishes a sample, I can furnish it in a letter. It will bear several days' ride without injury, and is sure to grow and flourish if put in a suitable place. But I would not advise any one to take any trouble to obtain it. It is a *pest* every where it grows, and deserves to be placed in the same catalogue as *Canada thistles*. It is commonly called "*quack grass*" here. I have found Swedish turnips an excellent crop for smothering it. Sow early, in drills, twenty inches apart, and thin to eight or ten inches in the drills.

LEVI VARNEY.

Bloomfield, Ont., 4th mo. 8th, 1872.

BLEEDING ANIMALS.

Bleeding is a remedy for cows who, from injury or otherwise, show signs of coming in prematurely. The same applies to mares with foal.

FARMER OF WORCESTER CO.

REMARKS.—Bleeding is undoubtedly useful in certain diseases, and may be valuable in the case of the brooding mare, if there are symptoms of congestion. In Texas,—we are informed by a gentleman who has travelled extensively in that State, —the drivers of stage horses attach a wet sponge to the head of each animal, placing it between the ears, and confining it there. Even with this precaution a horse will occasionally suddenly fall to the ground, by what is called a "sun stroke." This gentleman states that he has several times seen the driver dismount and bleed the horse freely in the mouth, and in five minutes drive him on again with the others, and apparently able to pursue the journey. Bleeding animals and persons is not now so frequently resorted to as it was some years ago, and we think with evident advantage to both man and beast.

BOYS ON THE FARM AND BOYS IN OTHER PLACES.

I have been a constant reader of your very interesting paper for the last three years, and have been especially pleased with the correspondence on first page, indicating as it does a wide variety of opinions, theories and facts, so that one cannot help receiving some information of value. Your correspondent from Woodstock, Vt., in a late issue, writes somewhat discouragingly of boys sticking to the farm, and seems to think that the majority of those farmers who urge farmers' boys to stick to the farm, cannot themselves be farmers. Of this fact I cannot give any information; but whatever I may say in this communication is the opinion of a farmer, who has been a book-keeper and school teacher. And now I ask what inducement is there for a young man to leave the farm? There are farmers in this vicinity who have made themselves independent by their farms, who would be glad to hire an intelligent, young American farmer, at the wages of three to four hundred dollars per year, and board. Now, allowing a large margin for clothing and incidental expenses, he could save from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars per year. You cannot get young men to work for such wages on a farm; but they will go to the cities and large towns, seek employment as book-keepers and clerks, work more hours per diem than on the farm, for the same pay, and have to find board, clothing, incidentals, &c., all to come out. They will form injurious and expensive habits; then with no money to gratify these desires they are placed in the way of temptation, and sorry I am to know that so few resist.

These opinions are founded on fact; they are not the old fogy feelings of the old time farmers, but a simple statement of facts by a young American farmer. M.

Rhode Island, March, 1872.

WEIGHT OF POULTRY AT FOREIGN SHOWS.

The poultry shows of England have become so popular and attractive that the pressure for entries has been such as to require heavy rate of entrance fees.

At the Birmingham poultry show, the past autumn, the weight of the premium birds was really astonishing. It is presumed that all the birds were in high flesh, if not even very fat. First prize, Aylesbury duck and drake, weighed seventeen pounds twelve ounces; another pair, of the same family, sixteen pounds twelve ounces. A Rouen drake and duck, nineteen pounds five ounces; another pair, nineteen pounds one ounce. First prize white gander and goose, weighed fifty-six pounds nine ounces; second prize, the same. A gray gander and goose, seven months old, weighed forty-seven pounds. First prize Cambridge turkey cock, weighed thirty-six pounds four ounces, and second prize, Cambridge turkey cock, thirty-three pounds eight ounces; and a six months old, twenty-eight pounds. First prize turkey hens, weighed thirty-eight pounds twelve ounces, the pair.

I will give no further list of weights, as these will serve to indicate the progress attained in that direction. That there has been persistent effort to accomplish these results, does not admit of any doubt. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the live weights of any of the varieties of ducks raised with us, to form an opinion as to how high a figure any of them is capable of attaining. Judging, however, from the dressed weight we get, I think we are very much behind our English cousins.

Geese and turkeys, however, have been equalled with us repeatedly, without any special effort to *force* them up to great weights. In 1830, my father received a gander from a friend, who gave his age as being about eight months. He weighed 24 the time he was received, twenty-seven pounds three ounces. He was called, if I remember aright, the Friezeland variety. E. O.

March 1, 1872.

DODGE WHEAT.

In the spring of 1869, myself and a neighbor had some fifteen acres of new land that we proposed to sow to wheat. Seeing the advertisement of the Dodge Wheat, and thinking if it was what it claimed to be, we would like some of it, we purchased direct from Mr. Foster, two bushels for which we paid four dollars per bushel, delivered at Montpelier. We sowed these two bushels at the rate of about one and one-half bushel per acre. The balance of the piece was seeded with a variety obtained from Wisconsin. The result was nearly as follows: of the Dodge wheat we raised nineteen bushels; of the Western variety, eight bushels. In the spring of 1870 we sowed nearly twenty acres of new land to wheat, but used only about two bushels of the Dodge wheat, though we had plenty of the seed on hand for that purpose. No one bushel for it. The result was about the same as the year previous,—the Western variety yielding the best, and giving the best satisfaction when made into flour. Those that claim to know, say that the Dodge is nothing more nor less than what used to be known here as the Rio Grande wheat. Last spring a neighbor wanted some seed wheat; I told him he could have some of the Western at $2.50, or the Dodge at $2.00 per bushel; he took some of both. This fall he told me that he liked the Western much the best, and should not sow the Dodge again. I have no wheat to sell, consequently no axe to grind. If my experience is worth anything to your fellow correspondent, he is welcome to it.

THE SEASON AND SUGAR ORCHARDS IN WASHINGTON CO., VT.

The almanac says that it is spring; but that is the only thing up here in Vermont that would lead us to mistrust it was past the middle of January. Within the last seventy-four hours more than a foot of snow has fallen, and things look as bleak and wintry as at any time since December. Those of our city friends that have made up their mouths for some maple honey about these days, would think the prospect was rather slim if they could take a look into our sugar orchards just now. The snow is from two to four feet deep; many of our sap tubs are buried in the snow at the foot of the trees, not that they have been there all winter, but trusting to the almanac and a few days pleasant weather last week, we made ourselves ready for sugaring, and expect to attend to it when the proper time comes, but it will be a hard job, and I hope those that enjoy the results of our labor will not begrudge us the small pittance it costs them, for sugar makers will earn their money this year. Hay is getting rather scarce, and is quick of sale at from $18 to $20 per ton.

Are horses any more apt to get the habit of cribbing by being fed on cut, than uncut feed?

Waitsfield, Vt., April 2, 1872. H.

COAL ASHES.

I once more have a word to say about coal ashes. I am in the habit of using them around my fruit trees. I put about a bushel to each tree. It saves me the trouble of digging around the trees, and keeps the ground loose, and is one of the best articles for mulching. My trees are all healthy, and bear well. I think it is the best dressing for trees that I have ever tried. I also use it freely for dressing my lawns; if put on freely it fills up all holes and brings in a good crop of white clover.

I ought to state that I use soft as well as hard coal, and make a liberal use of wood during the summer. The virtue may be in the wood ashes, but as I like more bulk than wood ashes allow, I shall still continue to use the mixture. I sprinkle coal ashes on my potato tops to keep off beetles and other insects; also on cucumbers, melons and squashes, to keep off bugs and beetles. I find them useful in many other things. S. A. S.

Spring Grove, April, 1872.

A GOOD GROWTH.

I had a dwarf pear tree in my garden that was winter-killed a few years ago. A healthy sprout came from the root, and in the spring of 1870 I set a Flemish Beauty scion in it. That year it grew, measuring all the branches, twenty-nine feet and three inches. It now measures sixty-six feet and nine inches, showing a growth of *thirty-five feet six inches* for 1871. The limbs are not crowded, and the shape of the tree is handsome. Who can show a greater growth in two years?

Winter has at last broken, the snow is not all gone. Most spring birds made their appearance last week. We have had four months of good sleighing. Water has been scarce, but mills are now running day and night. GRANITE.

Bloomfield, Ont., 4th mo. 8th, 1872.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS, &C.—COLD WEATHER IN VIRGINIA.

I think it would be a good plan for farmers who have choice varieties of fruits, (new kinds are constantly turning up) vegetables, &c., to let it be known, and distribute through the mails. I have been cultivating, in a small way, evergreen dwarf broom corn, and now have it growing. It is but three or four feet high, and every way superior to the high sort. It will give me pleasure to distribute it, but I shall expect a few cents enclosed to pay postage. We have had the severest winter known here; snow now on the ground. Last year at this time, the trees were in full bloom!

SAMUEL CLARKE.

Hicks Wharf, Va., March 23, 1872.

SCRATCHES ON HORSES.

What is called in this neighborhood low laurel is excellent for the cure of scratches. This is not the laurel which injures sheep and lambs that eat too much of it. But I know no other name for it than low laurel. Steep a good quantity of it in water one hour, wash the part affected twice a day, and in a short time a cure will be effected. Such has been my own experience, and that of others who have tried it. M. L. GOODALE.

South Amherst, Mass., March 20, 1872.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

—A cultivator in West New Jersey has seventy-five acres in blackberries, and sold last year $20,000 worth of fruit, with a profit of $14,000.

—Among the Cheviot hills of Scotland, they boast of sheep whose wool will measure eleven and a half inches.

—A paper at Corpus Christi, Texas, says that if it does not rain soon, Western Texas will be the greatest hide and bone country on the face of the earth.

—The domestication of the ostrich has become an important industry at the Cape of Good Hope. Three pluckings a year yield $50 worth of feathers. In 1870 $435,000 worth of ostrich plumes were exported, which was equivalent to 29,000 pounds.

—Cattle dealers are now contracting with feeders of Morgan Co., Ill., for fat cattle, for May delivery, at $5.50 to $5.60, and for June delivery at $5.75 to $6. At these figures large sales are being made. Dealers seem to have great confidence that the figures given are safe.

—A Mississippi girl just out of school, hired a few negroes last season and undertook to carry on the farm at the homestead. The result at the end of the year was eight banks of potatoes, 600 bushels of corn and $969 in cash from the sale of cotton, after all expenses were paid.

—A Texas cattle trader brought 3000 head of cattle to Kansas, to graze on the sunny slopes during the winter. He sold his ponies, belonging to his herders, together with $180 worth of hides recently; every head of his best drove having actually frozen to death.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Conviction under the Prevention of Cruelty Act—Section of that Act—Misapprehensions of old Farmers and old Practices—Cruelty of Frosty Bits—Cruelty of Lice and of Remedies—Impolicy of cruelty to Animals—Cruelty of smooth shod Ox—Cruelty of misuse of blankets.

MR. EDITOR:—There has been quite a little stir here in Wrentham the past week, occasioned by the arrest of one of our citizens for neglecting to provide sufficient food and shelter for his animals. The party arrested pleaded guilty, and paid a fine and costs of thirty-six dollars and five cents. Of course he feels rather sore about it, for his fine would have bought a ton of good hay, or forty-five bushels of meal. It is a pity his *after* wit did not appear earlier. But since the trial some of his neighbors have told him that his cattle were not any *poorer* than some others in the neighborhood, which makes him feel, or at least appear to, that he was not guilty after all. To save his own reputation, he threatens to prosecute a number of his neighbors for overdriving and underfeeding their animals; so the end may not be yet.

The act of the Legislature of 1869, for the more effectual prevention of cruelty to animals is good enough, and strong enough. Sect. 1 provides that "whoever overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, cruelly beats, mutilates or cruelly kills, or causes, or procures to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, cruelly beaten, mutilated or cruelly killed, any animal; and whoever having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the same, or unnecessarily fails to provide the same with proper food, drink, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offence be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding one year, or by fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

If a man overdrives, or overloads, or cruelly beats, or neglects to provide proper food and shelter for a *four*-horse team, his fine may be one thousand dollars and four years imprisonment, or both, as each animal so abused counts as one offence.

The penalties are heavy enough; but the trouble in executing the law is on account of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary evidence to convict, as people have such diverse ideas in regard to what constitutes cruelty, and especially what constitutes proper food and shelter for animals.

If a poor, shiftless, lazy farmer owns cattle or horses that look as if they were half starved all the time, it may not be difficult to obtain evidence against him sufficient to establish a case; but when a good old fashioned, honest farmer who intends no ill to man or beast is complained of for not furnishing proper food or shelter to his animals, the case is a hard one, both for the prosecuting officer and the animals. Old men are so controlled by habits and customs, and then there is a feeling in the community that a man's cattle are his own, and he has a *right* to treat his own as he pleases.

I have a case in mind of an old farmer of eighty winters, who was complained of for underfeeding. Well, there was no doubt but that he did underfeed; his cattle showed it by their rough coats and sharp bones; but he contended that he fed as well as he ever did. He gave them all the bog meadow hay and barley straw, poorly threshed, that they would eat, and watered them every day. To be sure, he could not afford to feed his dry cows as the men do who sell milk all winter. He did not sell milk. His cows gave him no income in the winter, and he could not afford to give them meal or English hay. The old man really believed he is kind to his animals, and it would be hard to find men who would testify in court that he was cruel to them, although he might have a cow die every spring for want of strength to go through the perils incident to parturition. The neighbors would say she got *thin* during the winter, and the old man would guess it was *horn ail*.

I am glad there is a society whose business it is, not only to punish cruelty, but also to teach the public what cruelty is. Men are thoughtless. It was only a few days ago that a farmer, with plenty of grey hairs in his head, told me that he never, till this winter, thought of its being cruelty to a horse to have frosty bits thrust into his mouth. To make sure, he tried it on his own tongue, and since then he was satisfied of the cruelty, for his tongue was yet sore. By the way, the easiest method I have ever tried to prevent the bits from sticking to the horse's tongue is to *breathe* on them a few times till they are coated with frost, then there is no more danger of their freezing the tongue than if they had been dipped in water, or covered with leather.

Nor do people realize the cruelty they bring on animals by allowing them to be preyed upon by lice; nor the greater cruelty they inflict, perhaps, by trying to kill the vermin with poisonous drugs. I have used carbolic soap for the purpose; but it must be made into a suds and the animals washed all over with it, and that more than once. In cold weather this is both cruel and dangerous. Different kinds of oils are used, including kerosene, all of which will kill lice; but in cold weather they must make the cattle, as well as the lice, very uncomfortable. Some use mercurial preparations and tobacco, both dangerous to use. Lately I have used nothing but dry sulphur, and with the best results. It lasts a long time in the hair, or among the feathers, and is both perfectly harmless to the animals and sure death to the insects.

In the matter of feeding and sheltering our domestic animals, *self-interest*, if rightly understood, would almost always prevent cruelty in that direction. It does not *pay* to starve or partly starve an animal. If a horse, ox or cow is worth keeping at all, it is worth feeding well. It takes

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1872.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers receiving bills for amount due on their subscriptions will confer a favor by sending us their money in accordance with the terms printed on their bills. The bad weather during the late fall and winter has kept our agents at home a good part of the time, and we desire a response to these bills before our collectors can again traverse their usual routes.

Send money by postal order, or registered letter, whenever practicable, plainly directed to

R. P. EATON & CO.,
34 Merchants' Row, Boston, Mass.

☞ N. B.—Money mailed us, directed as above, may be sent at our risk, until further notice.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements, 1st insertion, . . .	15 cents per line
Each subsequent insertion, . . .	12 " " "
Business Notices, each insertion, . .	20 " " "
Double Column, " "	40 " " "
Reading Matter Notices, ...	50 " " "

Outs, double price for space occupied.

Advertisements must be sent in as early in the week as Tuesday, to secure insertion.

Advertisers are charged for the space occupied in solid nonpareil measure.

Transient advertising must be prepaid.

Extra display, including double column advertisements, and appropriate cuts, allowed at reasonable rates.

No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar, and no gift enterprises, lottery swindle, or any other humbug taken at any price.

Special terms for Probate and Bank Advertising.

☞ The above are *net* prices for all advertising less than $100 in amount.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Our foreign news is quite interesting. The Alabama treaty has been again before Parliament. All doubts concerning the presentation of the English "case" at Geneva on the 15th instant are removed by the statement of Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons last evening that it is prepared and on the way. With the case is transmitted a note reserving "the rights of the Queen," which action the Premier assured the Commons avoids any compromise of the position of the government relative to the consequential claims. Disraeli, with his usual inquisitiveness, succeeded in extracting the interesting fact that the Lord Chief Justice will continue to act as a member of the board of arbitration, and that the work of arbitration will be begun without delay. Disraeli attempted to make it appear that the government had sacrificed its position, but the very decisive vote with which the House refused to adopt the motion in favor of withdrawal from one of the most important provisions of the treaty shows that Mr. Gladstone has convinced the members that the matter has been safely arranged. The discussion in the House of Lords was equally interesting, but in view of the action of the Commons, Earl Russell's promised motion to suspend the arbitration until the obnoxious claims are withdrawn by our government does not portend further complications. The counter cases of Great Britain and the United States in the matter of the Alabama claims, were presented to the board of arbitration in Geneva, Monday. The trial of young O'Connor for assaulting Queen Victoria ended on the 11th, and he was convicted and sentenced. The jury was satisfied that the prisoner was sane, and the penalty imposed was one year at hard labor and twenty lashes. The laying of a fourth telegraphic cable between Europe and America has been contracted for by the French Transatlantic Telegraph Company. Another cable from Milford Haven to Rye Beach, New Hampshire, is projected. Casimer Pereire has declined the appointment of French minister of finance. M. Goulard, minister of agriculture and commerce, who has been minister of finances *pro tem* , will continue to occupy both positions. The news from Spain shows that the Carlists are at work to overthrow the present government. It is difficult to determine the real strength of the upraising, the despatches being contradictory. The latest accounts represent the movement as increasing in power. A plot for the destruction of the city of Barcelona has been discovered. The Internationalists in Spain are active, and a simultaneous movement throughout Europe is feared. Charles XV., King of Sweden and Norway, is seriously ill, and it is feared cannot recover.

Later advices report the exchange of counter cases in the Alabama question at Geneva. The London journals discuss the question of indirect damages, and declare the ministry must adhere to their position against submission. The passport system in France is abolished after the 20th inst. It is reported in London that troubles have grown out of the recent diplomatic negotiations between France and Germany. The relations between the two countries are said to be again in so critical a condition that grave complications may be apprehended. The consular convention between the United States and the German empire has been ratified by the Prussian Reichstag. The reports concerning the troubles in Spain are contradictory.

Utah advices report a fearful avalanche in the mining regions, in which a Mr. Murray of Rhode Island was killed. Snow fell six feet on a level in a recent storm. The release of Brigham Young is anticipated by the Mormans, and the Conference has adjourned till the 21st, to enable him to close it in person.

Further details of the recent earthquake disturbances in California state that there have been more than 7000 shocks up to the 10th, all, with the exception of the first shock, purely local.

Congress makes slow progress. A bill for the abolition of the franking privelege received its quietus in the House. A bill has been reported extending the time for complying with the provisions of the agricultural college act to July, 1874.

The Massachusetts republican convention, on the 10th, appointed delegates to Philadelphia and favored the renomination of President Grant. The same action was taken by the Pennsylvania convention, on the same day.

The Legislature is clearing up its work. The general horse railway bill has been defeated, and the bill for a new street railway in this city has passed the Senate. Two sessions daily are now the rule, a sign that adjournment is approaching.

The next New England Agricultural Fair lies between Lowell and Providence, R. I., from both which places propositions have been received. The question of location will soon be decided.

The entire business portion of the thriving village of Ayer was destroyed by fire on Saturday evening. More than forty individuals or firms were burned out, besides the loss of several halls, schoolhouses, the Unitarian church, etc. The total loss is estimated at more than $200,000, and the insurance is probably altogether inadequate to cover it.

We have reports of several bridges being carried away in New Hampshire and Maine by freshets. There is considerable snow in the upper portions of those States, and there are fears of further damage before it has all disappeared.

We have had a number of stormy days since our last—rain and a little snow. The ground is still frozen, and the frost comes out very slowly. The season is at least a month later than last year. Wednesday opens clear and pleasant.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

The committee on ways and means have at last completed their work on the tariff question, and have prepared a bill which they were to present on Tuesday. The bill embraces both the tariff and revenue questions, and it is estimated that the total reduction of duties by the bill as it now stands is about 21,000,000 and of internal taxes $8,000,000. Of the former amount $5,700,000 is taken from wool and woolens, and of the latter $6,000,000 from tobacco, $2,000,000 from gas, and only $100,000 from stamps. A brief review of some of the leading provisions of the bill is given below:—

To the section on wools is added the proviso that "no wools from east of the Cape of Good Hope shall pay a higher rate of duty than like wools if imported from any other part of the world. The duty on wool is fixed at the following rates:—

On all wools of the first class defined by law and known as clothing wools, the value whereof at the last port or place whence exported to the United States, excluding charges in such port, shall be thirty-two cents or less per pound, eight cents per pound, and in addition thereto nine per centum ad valorem. On wools of the same class, the value whereof at the last port or place whence exported to the United States, excluding charges in such port, shall exceed thirty-two cents per pound, and in addition thereto eight per centum ad valorem. On wools of the second class, defined by law and known as combing wools, and upon all hair of the alpaca, goat and other animals, the value whereof at the last port or place whence exported to the United States, excluding charges in such port, shall be thirty-two cents or less per pound, eight cents per pound, and in addition thereto nine per centum ad valorem. On wools of the same class, the value whereof at the last port or place whence exported to the United States, excluding charges in such port, shall exceed thirty-two cents per pound, ten cents per pound, and in addition thereto ten per centum ad valorem; *provided*, that upon such wool, if imported unwashed, the specific duty upon washed wool of the first class shall be twice, and upon scoured wool of all classes three times the specific duty to which such wool would be subjected if imported unwashed.

The duty on coffee is two cents per pound, 10 cents per pound. The duty on all kinds of manufactured lumber, boards, planks, staves, &c., is reduced from twenty to ten cent. ad valorem, and all kinds of building stone from one dollar and fifty cents per ton to seventy-five cents. On upper leather of all kinds and on skins tanned and dressed the duty is fixed at twenty-five per cent. ad valorem; and on belting leather at fifteen per cent.; corks and cork bark manufactured are placed at thirty per cent. A reduction of twenty per cent. on sized paper used exclusively for books other than blank books, magazines and newspapers, at twenty-eight per cent. ad valorem, provided that all paper imported to be used for any other purpose except as above stated shall be forfeited to the government, and a fine of $1000 imposed. The standard of manufactured vinegar is also fixed so that it shall be of that strength which requires thirty-five grains of bicarbonate of potash to neutralize one ounce of vinegar. A general reduction in the duty on copper was also agreed on. Friction matches are put on the free list. Savings banks deposits to the amount of $2000 are exempt. Stamps on agreements and contracts are stricken out; and on agreement of leases, rental, &c., the exemption is increased to $500, and the additional fifty-cents tax is levied for the amount of $500 instead of $200, as under the present law. An important selection designed to promote the revival of American commerce has also been added to the bill, embracing substantially the method of relief recently advocated before the committee by Messrs. Blaine and Lynch. It is in full as follows:—

That from and after the passage of this act, all lumber, timber, hemp, manilla, iron and steel not advanced beyond rods, bolts, copper and composition metal which may be necessary for the construction and equipment of vessels building wholly in the United States for the purpose of being employed in the foreign trade, including the trade between the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the United States, and finished after the passage of this act, may be imported in bond under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe; and upon proof that such materials have been used for the purpose aforesaid no duties shall be paid thereon. Every vessel receiving the benefit of this section shall not be allowed to engage in the coastwise trade of the United States except upon the payment to the United States of the duties upon which a rebate is herein allowed; and *provided* further, that all articles of foreign production needed for ship-stores or the repair of American vessels engaged exclusively in foreign trade, may be withdrawn from bonded warehouses free of duty, under regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Mr. Dawes, chairman of the committee, is reported to be opposed to this bill. As it is hardly probable that it will become a law, without material modification in its leading features, we defer any details till it has been disposed of definitely.

AN ELEGANT STORE.

On Monday evening last, a small company of friends, and gentlemen connected with the press, met by invitation to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the commencement of the business of piano making by Jonas Chickering, and the opening of the finest piano warerooms in the country by his sons and successors, who on that day turned out their forty thousandth piano. The following brief description will give our readers an idea of the establishment, but due appreciation can only come from personal examination:—

The building which has just been altered over for the firm, is the large granite block on Washington street and Hayward place, one of the finest sites in the city. It is six stories in height, and before its occupancy by the Messrs. Chickering comprised Nos. 348, 350, 352 and 354 Washington street, on which it has a frontage of fifty-seven feet, and extending back so as to give an area of about thirty thousand square feet in the six stories. The rooms on the lower floor were united into one grand salesroom with a smaller room immediately above, while the four remaining stories are devoted to the storage of pianos and for the use of the workmen in connection with the establishment. The entrance to the building is through a grand arch of original design and unique workmanship, embracing the first and second stories, and crowned with a *fac simile* of "the grand cross of the legion of honor" which was awarded to Messrs. Chickering & Sons at the Paris Exposition in 1867, while gilded copies of some of the most highly prized medals flank either side. Passing through massive walnut doors, one is ushered into the principal salesroom, which has a frontage of 47 feet and a depth of 87 feet. The workmanship here displayed is of the most elaborate character, huge columns and entablatures supporting the ceiling, while the flooring is of maple wood, every portion of which is grooved and blind nailed, and the effect produced by the coloring of the room, which is a combination of blue grays and warm browns, is very striking and beautiful. In the rear of this room are located two splendidly furnished rooms, one designed as the private business office of the firm, and the other for the bookkeeper. In these are to be found fine portraits of Mr. Jonas Chickering, the founder of the concern, and also of the late lamented Col. Thomas Chickering, whose efforts added much to the well earned reputation of the firm. In the lower salesroom nearly sixty of the various styles of pianos are on exhibition. The second story, or second salesroom, as it is known, is reached by a massive and capacious black staircase, where pianos of all classes are arranged in attractive form throughout the room. A marble bust of Mr. Jonas Chickering occupies a prominent position at the head of the staircase, and portraits of noted musical celebrities are tastefully arranged upon the walls. Here the most perfect harmony is observed in all the surroundings, and the remaining rooms are finished and furnished with corresponding taste.

THE CUNARD LINE.—We are pleased to state that with the opening of spring trade is increasing to an extent which has induced the Cunard Line to add three extra steamers during this and next month. The regular trips have been found insufficient to carry all the freight offering. We have received from Mr. James Alexander, the agent of the line in this city, specimens of some very convenient cards issued by the company for the use of its patrons. Each card contains a list of all the steamers—twenty-six in number—which run between Liverpool, Boston and New York, together with the names of their captains. A picture of one of the steamers with the plan of her cabin occupies the two inside pages, and another page is devoted to the rates of passage, agencies, etc. This simple publication contains much necessary information.

SERIOUS RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—A terrible accident occurred on the 10th, on the Midland Railroad near Hackensack, N. J. The Saddle river bridge gave way and precipitated the train into the river. John Doremus, brakeman, was instantly killed, and twenty-five or thirty passengers were taken from the wreck more or less injured. The baggage master had both legs broken. The conductor was badly bruised and is in a precarious condition. Judge Wortendike of Bergen county was also badly injured.

CONKLIN, THE ABSCONDING CASHIER.—A Montreal dispatch, of the 11th, says the United States have abandoned the charge of bond robbery against Henry R. Conklin, late cashier of the Market Bank, New York. Papers and securities amounting to $80,000 have been recovered, and the lawyers representing the Market Saving Bank of New York have returned with them.

GREAT FIRE AT AYER, MASS.

The town of Ayer, (Groton Junction) was visited by a terribly destructive fire on Saturday night, 13th. It broke out in the building owned by Samuel Reed, about 11.30 P. M., destroying all the buildings on the north side of Main street between the Worcester and Nashua Railroad and the Lowell freight depot. The following business places were destroyed: The post-office; Harland & Stewart's grocery store; lumber shed of Phelps & Woods and lot of lumber; W. H. H. Hinds, dentist; C. G. Woods, meat market; Masonic Hall, in Phelps & Woods' buildings; C. W. Mason, dry and fancy goods store; W. Wright & Son, furniture; Jenkins's variety store and dwelling-house; J. & J. F. Boynton, store and tinware; S. B. Tuttle, furniture; Mrs. W. C. Nutting, millinery store and dwelling-house; Lufkin's fish market; C. A. Santon's paint shop; Union Hall building; H. C. Sherwin, grocery store; Levi Sherwin, book and fancy goods store; J. C. Tenney, boots, shoes and ready-made clothing; Page's block—G. C. Brock, apothecary and jewelry; Fernald, boots and shoes; G. W. Stuart, groceries and dry goods store and dwelling-house; E. O. Markham, apothecary and jewelry store; Wheeler, Brown & Co., groceries, dry goods and hardware; Bruce & Chanels, pianos and organs (stock mostly saved); C. A. Flagg, tailor, A. D. Simmons, dry and fancy goods; J. D. Brown, dentist; Unitarian Church; brick schoolhouse on Washington street; engine house; Odd Fellows and Grand Army hall; John Spaulding, jr., law office. The following dwelling houses were burned: Mrs. Gates, A. F. Colburn, Levi Sherwin, George Champney, T. H. & A. Page (two dwellings and a barn), Stephen Barret, Samuel Dickinson, Andrew Field, Harvey A. Woods, N. Sawyer, H. H. Bliss, J. E. Fletcher (two dwellings and three shops), a boarding house over Wheeler, Brown & Co.'s store, occupied by A. Peabody.

All the business portion of the place is destroyed. Not a grocery or a dry goods store remains. The loss is estimated at from $160,000 to $200,000. The property is insured in the Fitchburg Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Fitchburg, $24,630; Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Worcester, $5150; F. C. Currier's agency, Fitchburg, $9000; L. C. Park's agency, Worcester, $3750. Lowell and Fitchburg were sent to for help, and a steamer and hose carriages from both places arrived.

Additional particulars show that 40 buildings were burned, including the three principal business blocks, the Unitarian church, many dwellings and every store in town except the flour store of H. C. Rolfe on Main street and a small grocery. It is believed that the fire was incendiary. The loss is thought to be heavier than first estimated, and may reach $300,000. Prompt relief and assistance have been offered by the citizens of Littleton, Fitchburg, and other neighboring towns. There was but one fire engine in the town, and the hose was not long enough to draw water from the river. The above estimate of insurance does not cover everything, although much of the property destroyed was doubtless uninsured. We understand the Middlesex Mutual Insurance Company of Concord, has a considerable risk on the burnt property.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

The Alden Woolen Mill at Springfield was destroyed by fire Friday morning, 12th, the only building saved being the dye house and storehouse. Upon the machinery there was some $25,000 worth of cloth in process of manufacture. The additional loss on the building and machinery will foot up nearly $50,000 more, making a total loss of nearly $75,000. Upon this there is about $40,000 insurance. The fire is supposed to have caught from a stove in one of the upper rooms Upward of fifty operatives are thrown out of employment by the fire. The mill was a portion of the estate of Mr. Caleb Alden, who died but a short time since, and was carried on by his two sons, James C. and Elbert A. Alden.

The Post Office building at Exeter, N. H., was completely destroyed by fire on Sunday, nothing being saved but the contents of the safe, and those were taken out in a damaged condition. The building was owned by Mrs. Julia Jamieson and her sister, Miss Lucy Boardman, and insured for $1000; loss $2000. Their dwelling house was also somewhat damaged. The Postmaster, N. K. Leavitt, loses about $600, no insurance. F. R. Litch, hoop skirt manufactory and dry and fancy goods and millinery store had just added largely to his stock. He estimates his loss at $7000,—$3000 insurance. Dr. Charles K. Gerrish, dentist, loses $1200; insured $600. Capt. William H. Cobb lost furniture stored in the attic, $1700 insurance. The house of Sarah A. Sheefe was damaged to the extent of $600 or $700.

The Metropolitan paper collar factory, New York, was entirely burned on the 13th. Loss on stock $100,000. A great portion of the machinery, valued at $150,000, was ruined, and the loss is doubtless half its value. The office of John Taylor & Son's brewery was damaged to the amount of $1000 by water. The building, owned by the same party, was damaged $25,000—all fully insured. Five hundred girls were thrown out of employ.

A fire Monday morning at Whitney's Point, N. Y., burned the Bigby Hotel, the stores of Heath & Co. and Birdsall & Co., and the dwelling of Harriet Seymour. Loss $20,000; mainly insured.

Pitcock & Freese's wood and packing-houses in Jersey City were burned on the 11th. Loss about $40,000; partially insured.

A fire broke out in the Galt House, on the west side of Oil City, Pa., 10th, destroying the Galt House, Bere House, Fisher's large tank, the Model Refining Company's tank and a large school house. Loss about $25,000.

Mullen, Parker & Co's paper mill at Carlisle, Pa., was destroyed by fire on the 10th. The loss is $45,000; insured for $30,000.

The car depot, stables, paint shop and repair shops of the Third street Horse Railroad Philadelphia, were burned on the 12th. All the horses and cars were saved, except seven of the latter. Great quantities of harnesses were burned. Loss, $100,000.

A fire at Pottsville Pa., on the 14th, destroyed ten tenement buildings. Loss, $15,-000. A man named Charles Ewing was run over by a fire engine and killed.

A fire at Shamokin, Pa., on the 15th, destroyed the Douty House and nine houses adjoining. Loss $120,000; partially insured. Thirteen families were rendered homeless.

Lind's block, at Randolph-street bridge, Chicago, the only building spared in the burned district on the south side, took fire on Tuesday, 9th, and the upper floors were seriously damaged. Loss $10,000; insured.

The Lake Shore and Southern Railroad elevator at Toledo, O., was burned on the 15th, with its contents, consisting of 160,000 bushels of corn, 12,000 bushels of oats and 8000 bushels of wheat. Loss $100,000; insured mostly in Eastern companies.

A fire at Tiffin, O., on the 13th, destroyed over 60 buildings, including houses, barns, stores, saloons, a stove factory and a portion of the railroad depot. The loss is very large, but it is impossible to ascertain the amount. No lives were lost.

The Radford House and the elevator at at Warrensburg, Missouri, were burned on the 13th. The elevator contained 500,000 bushels of grain. Loss estimated at $100,000. Insurance unknown.

The town of West Point, Mississippi, was nealy destroyed by fire on the 14th. Fifty dwellings and the business houses were totally destroyed.

A large portion of the business part of Main street Pictou, Ont., was burned on the 13th. Loss $50,000.

TEST yourself that you may know whether you be wise. If you have caution in your Sewing Machine, well, if not, go at once and get them. Three make a full set.

SEED CORN.—See advertisement of A. M. Everts, in another column.

THE SPRING FRESHETS.

The backwardness of the season has kept the snow so long on the ground and the ice so strong in the streams that the spring breaking up and freshets are likely to cause considerable damage, especially should the warm weather continue, accompanied by rain. We already have reports of some losses in Maine and New Hampshire. On the 10th, the dam on the Souhegan river, at Milford, N. H., was partly carried away. On the same night, the high water and ice in the Contoocook carried off and broke up the covered railroad bridge at West Henniker by which railroad communication to Hillsboro', a few miles beyond, on the Contoocook Valley road, is suspended. The bridge was about 100 feet long.

A dispatch of the 11th, from Concord, N. H., says:—

The Federal bridge and Montreal Railroad bridge across the Merrimac at East Concord, which were only five feet apart, and each about four hundred and thirty feet in length, were carried away by the ice at 4.30 this afternoon. They had both been considered safe through the day, and up and down passenger trains had passed safely within an hour of the catastrophe. A little past four a large field of ice started from the left bank above the bridges, and carried away one pier of the Federal bridge, tumbling over two spans upon the railroad bridge, which was carried a mile down stream and lodged apparently unbroken on a sand bank, right side up. The other half floated off about one hundred rods down stream, lodging similarly on the left bank. In the meantime, all but about fifty feet of the Federal bridge came down with an immense field of broken ice, striking the centre pier of the Free bridge in this section of the city, some two miles below, swinging round and passing it safely, reaching Concord bridge. The wreck was entirely broken up and has gone farther down stream. The loss to the city of Concord and the Montreal Railroad is estimated at thirty thousand dollars.

On the following day the water commenced falling, but there was still a large body of ice to come down, and several railroad and common bridges were in great danger.

At Newport, N. H., on the 9th, the Sugar River Railroad bridge was carried away, and other damage done by which its opening to Claremont will be delayed a month or more.

From Maine, we learn by a dispatch of the 15th from Kendall's Mills, that the ice on the Sebasticook river started, and carried away the dam just above Free Bridge in Benton, and 150 feet of the dam occupied by Heath & Crosby's mill, carrying down a great number of logs, and damaging the mills. The central piers of both bridges were carried away, letting the spans drop into the river. The water was still rising, and fears were entertained for the safety of the railroad bridge at Winslow.

From the Bellows Falls (Vt.) Times.

WESTMINSTER FARMERS' CLUB.

Met with the new president at Ezra Stoddard's, and discussed the subject of fertilizers with usual interest.

N. D. PIERCE.—I consider the subject of fertilizers of vast importance to the farmer, from the fact that one of the greatest secrets of of farming is to thoroughly understand the best and most economical methods for repairing the waste of continually growing profitable crops. Experience has shown the observing farmer that everything of a fertilizing nature about the farm, should be put in a way to benefit the same. And even then, most of us have observed that this is not enough to keep our farms in thriving condition, especially those where all the beef, pork and grain are permitted to leave the farm. Some profitable fertilizer must be procured and applied to make up the loss. Observation and experience teach this. Great improvements have been made in the conditions of our farms within the last fifty years, and most of them, I attribute to the free use of fertilizers, together with the more thorough working of our lands. I have purchased and used wood ashes, plaster and phosphates. Have experimented with them all side by side upon corn, potatoes, rye, barley, oats and clover, and think I have got about my money's worth, except not only in practical knowledge, but in pocket. And in Bradley's superphosphate of lime more than any other. For every dollar expended for Bradley's phosphate I have received two dollars in return. On the other hand they shrink with these results, I think I have sufficient reason to safely recommend to every farmer in this vicinity the use of Bradley's phosphates. I think they are more profitable than any home manufactured. Others may be good, but my experience says buy Bradley's.

LEMUEL SPAULDING.—I have used guano, but with very little profit. Have used Bradley's phosphate on corn, think it paid well. Think it should be put in the hill, and can be used with the greatest profit on wet land.

MYRON WARD.—When I lived in Andover, people used stable manure, and always raised good corn. Saw guano used in that town, but with poor success. In Westminster, I have tried phosphate side by side with good stable manure, the phosphate showed the best corn. Phosphate should never be put too near corn. If the corn does not take it all, it will be shown in the clover. One advantage in using phosphate, is that it does not cost much to apply it, and with the present price of wages, this is no small item to be considered.

CHARLES PECK.—Think Bradley's phosphate if properly applied will double the quantity of corn per acre, and greatly increase the amount of fodder, besides making both ready for the barn much earlier in the season.

GEORGE STODDARD.—Have seen Bradley's phosphate used for two years past, and with very satisfactory results. Think it pays best on moist land. Have seen it used side by side with ashes, and my observation teaches me that Bradley's phosphate is the best paying article.

H. F. FARR.—Have used both phosphate and ashes. Last year I bought three barrels of Bradley's phosphate and mixed it with one-half stable manure. Dropped the mixture in the hill, extending the whole over four acres of land. It paid well.

THE BIGGEST YET.—Mr. Chas. P. Bancroft, of Brookline, has exhibited to us an egg laid by a nine months pullet, of the Brahma and Houdan cross, which is the largest yet brought in for notice. It measured 9½ by 7½ inches, and weighed 7 ounces. Had we not been personally acquainted with the gentleman, we should have thought he was endeavoring to play upon our credulity by palming off on us the egg of the *Dinornis*, instead of the ordinary hen fruit of the period. However, we reflect that the *Dinornis* is extinct, that emulation often leads to wonderful results, and place this effort of Madam Brahma-Houdan on record for the envy of all her kind.

MORSE MEMORIAL MEETING.—Meetings in honor of the memory of Prof. S. F. B. Morse were held in several of the leading cities of this country on Tuesday. In this city, a large meeting convened at Faneuil Hall. The audience was composed of some of the leading men of the community, and the speeches by Prof. Horsford, the Hon. Messrs. Hillard and Dana, and Mr. E. P. Whipple, were of the highest character. Resolutions were passed, and dispatches received from other cities where memorial meetings were also held. In Washington a large meeting was held in the hall of the House of Representatives, presided over by Speaker Blaine.

FALL RIVER BOATS.—The steamers Bristol and Providence, refitted and put in complete order, were placed on the Fall River line Monday, and it is understood that two more boats will be placed on the line this season, to run between New York and Newport, in order to afford special accommodations to the heavy summer travel and extra freight.

BURNETT'S KALLISTON will impart a *clear, soft* and *beautiful* hue to the skin.

SEED CORN.—See advertisement of A. M. Everts, in another column.

Political Intelligence.

XLII. CONGRESS---Second Session.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, 10th, the message of the House, returning the Senate tariff bill, was referred to the Committee on privileges and elections. A bill was passed for the relief of homestead settlers who suffered by the fires in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan last autumn. The Indian appropriation bill was also passed. In the House, a bill to abolish the franking privilege after July 1, 1873, was reported and recommitted, which kills the matter for this session. The legislative appropriation bill was considered in committee of the whole, and the civil service reform appropriation debated at length, but without action.

In the Senate, Thursday, an advesre report was made upon the bill to grant a pension to the widow of Admiral Farragut. The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill was passed. In the House, a bill to prevent cruelty to animals in transit was passed. The legislative appropriation bill was considered in committee of the whole, and the civil service reform item was reduced to $10,000.

In the Senate, Friday, the bill for the construction of a bridge across the Missouri River at Nebraska City was passed. Bills were reported extending to July, 1874, the time within which States may comply with the provisions of the Agricultural College act, and appropriating $50,000 for observations of the transit of Venus. In the House the legislative appropriation bill was taken up and variously amended, the civil service reform appropriation being reduced to $10,000. A conference committee was ordered on the non-concurred amendments. A report was made in favor of Mr. Armstrong, the sitting member, in the Dakotah contested election case.

The Senate was not in session on Saturday. The House met in committee of the whole for general debate.

In the Senate, Monday, the bill permitting the interment in national cemeteries of the remains of any honorably discharged soldier was passed. The construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at Quincy, Illinois, was authorized. The deficiency bill was taken up, several amendments made, but final action not reached. In the House, action upon Mr. Hooper's civil-rights bill was prevented by dilatory motions which consumed the morning hour. The committee on expenditures in the War department reported the result of its investigations into the sales of arms to France, exonerating the Secretary of War and his subordinates from any violation of law or of international obligation. The river and harbor improvement bill was passed. A bill was passed for the appointment of three commissioners to inquire into the depredations upon the frontiers of Texas.

In the Senate, Tuesday, a bill was passed for the redemption and sale of public lands under the direct tax law, excluding such as are used for cemeteries or for naval or military purposes. A bill to develope the mining interest of the country was passed. The bill to establish a steamship mail service between the United States and Australia was discussed without action. A bill to perpetuate testimony in the United States courts was reported. In the House, Mr. Dawes reported the tariff and tax bill, and it was made the special order in committee of the whole for next Tuesday and each day thereafter until disposed of. The introduction of a minority report was objected to, when it transpired that a third report had been agreed upon, leaving Mr. Dawes's report indorsed by but four of the nine members of the ways and means committee. Mr. Dawes addressed the House, and subsequently Mr. Maynard obtained leave to introduce a bill "for the further reduction of taxes and the promotion of commerce." A conference committee was ordered on the bill relating to mail-carrying contracts. A bill was reported to regulate the seizure and examination of invoices, books and papers in customs cases. The St. Croix and Bayfield Railroad conference committee reported itself unable to agree and the House voted to adhere to its former action, which amounts to the rejection of the bill.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, 10th, the adverse report of the committee on mercantile affairs on the petition for the incorporation of the "Massachusetts Abattoir Association" was recommitted. Considerable other business not of general importance was transacted. The House had quite a field day, and sixty speeches were made. The most important action taken was the rejection of the general street railway bill, which was refused a third reading by a vote of 133 to 5. The resolutions on the death of Professor Morse was adopted.

In the Senate, Thursday, a bill to authorize Fitchburg to issue additional water scrip was referred to the next Legislature. The bill to incorporate the Standish Monument Association was passed to be engrossed. In the House, a committee of conference was appointed on the bill relating to the small pox. The bill regulating the hours of labor in manufacturing establishments, passed to be engrossed. Also, the bill to limit the term of service of jurors.

In the Senate, Friday, the Highland Railway bill was discussed at length and ordered to a third reading. The House ordered the bill to incorporate the Union Freight Railroad Company to be engrossed after discussion, and transacted considerable other business, making unusual progress.

The legislature transacted no business of general importance Saturday. The Highland Railway bill was ordered to be engrossed without debate.

In the Senate, Monday, no business of special importance was transacted. A motion to reconsider the engrossment of the Highland railway bill was lost. The House rejected the bill concerning the detention of freight by consignees. The resolve to grant $100,000 to Amherst College was discussed and several amendments were proposed, but no action was taken.

In the Senate, Tuesday, several special assignments were made, but no important action was taken. A bill was reported to incorporate the Campello, North Bridgewater and Holbrook street railway company. The House rejected the resolve in favor of Amherst College, and the resolve to provide for the construction of a prison for women.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

The Massachusetts State republican convention was held at Worcester on Wednesday of last week. Messrs. A. H. Rice, George B. Loring, William Claflin, P. Emory Aldrich, Oliver Ames and Sylvander Johnson were elected delegates at large to the national convention. The resolutions adopted express clearly the position of the republicans of the State in favor of the renomination of President Grant and the nomination of Senator Wilson for Vice-President.

The Pennsylvania republican State convention was held in Harrisburg on the 10th. General J. F. Hartranft was nominated for governor. The delegates to the national convention were directed to vote for the nomination of General Grant for President, and to "act together for the best interest of the republican party" on the question of the Vice-Presidency.

The Iowa Assembly has passed a bill abolishing the penalty of death—66 to 22.

The Florida Republican State Convention elected four whites and two colored delegates to the Philadelphia conventions. Resolutions were passed favoring the renomination of President Grant.

The West Virginia Constitutional Convention adjourned on the 9th. The constitution passed a final reading by 61 to 3. The proposition to give negroes the right to hold office has been the cause of such animated discussion that it was submitted to the people, to be voted on as a separate proposition, when the constitution is ratified.

IMPORTANT JUDICIAL DECISION.—All the extra-judicial proceedings of Judge McKean of the supreme court of Utah Territory are summarily disposed of by the decision of the United States Supreme Court, announced on Monday, reversing his decision in regard to the empanelling of juries. The formation of juries in contravention of the territorial laws is declared to be illegal, and all the decisions of Judge McKean for the past year fall to the ground. This is a fine feather in the cap of Brigham Young, who is once more supreme in his dominions, and who will not fail to profit by the advantage which his legal victory over his persecutors gives him.

The Markets.

BOSTON RETAIL PRICES.

Inside of Faneuil Hall Market.

[Corrected weekly by J. F. HILTON, No. 6, *Veal and Mutton;* RUSSELL BROS., Nos. 17 & 19, *Poultry and Game;* H. BIRD & Co., Nos. 38 & 40, *Beef, Pork, Lard and Hams;* C. C. CHAMBERLIN & Co., Nos. 79 & 81, *Butter, Cheese and Eggs;* SANDS, FURBER & Co., Nos. 88 & 90, *Fruit and Vegetables;* NEWCOMB & KROGMAN, Nos. 30 & 32, New F. H. MARKET, *Fish;* MERRITT & RICHARDSON, No. 1, F. H. Square, *Fruit and Nuts.*]

Butter, Cheese and Eggs.

Butter, new imp 45 @ . 55	Cheese, ₩ lb . . 18 @ . 20
new tub, choice 40 @ . 42	Eggs, ₩ doz . . . @ . 26
" 35 . . . 38 @ . 39	

Meats, Fresh, ₩ lb.

Beef, ₩ lb—	Lamb—
Sirloin steak, 20 @ . 33	hind qr ₩ lb . 15 @ . 20
Round do. . . 20 @ . 23	fore qr, ₩ lb . 10 @ . 12½
Rib, roast . . 20 @ . 28	Mutton—
Chuck rib . . . 8 @ . 10	legs, ₩ lb . . 15 @ . 20
Plate and nvls 8 @ . 10	fore qr, ₩ lb . 8 @ . 12
Soup pieces . . 5 @ . 5	chops . . . . 14 @ . 20
Liver . . . . . 8 @ . 8	Pork, ₩ lb—
Hearts, ₩ lb . . 3 @ . 4	Roast and stks 9 @ . 11
Hogs, round, ₩ lb 6½ @ . 7	Suet, ₩ lb . . . 10 @ . 12
Hasle, sheep, ea . . @ . 5	Tallow, ₩ lb . . 9 @ . 10
Kidney, each . . @ . 8	Veal, h'd qr ₩ lb 9 @ . 22
Lard, leaf . . . 9 @ . 10	fore qr . . . . 8 @ . 14
Tried . . . . . 15 @ . 15	loins, ... 15 @ . 20

Meats—Salt, Smoked, &c.

Pork, hams, ₩ lb 11 @ . 12	smoked, ea . 1 20 @ 1 35
Bacon, ₩ lb . 12 @ . 14	rnsep, do. ₩ ds . @ . 60
Shoulders, ₩ lb 8 @ . .	Pigs' feet, ₩ lb . 10 @ . 12
Salt, ₩ lb . . . 8 @ . 10	Sausage, ₩ lb . 10 @ . 12
Beef, corned, ₩ lb 10 @ . 12½	Bologna, g'nd, ₩ lb 12 @ . 14
Smoked, ₩ lb . 20 @ . 22	Tripe, ₩ lb . . . @ . 12
Tongues, ₩ lb . 15 @ . 18	

Poultry and Game.

Chickens, ₩ lb—	Pigs, sck'g, ea 2 00 @ 3 00
Spring . . . . 40 @ . 50	quarter, ₩ lb . 12 @ . 17
Ducks, choice ₩ lb @ . 30	Grouse, ₩ pr 1 00 @ 1 25
Fowls, ₩ lb . . 20 @ . 25	Snipe, ₩ doz . . @ 3 00
Geese, ₩ lb . . 15 @ . 20	Turkeys—
Green, ₩ lb . . 20 @ . 25	choice, ₩ lb . 25 @ . 28
Pigeons, ₩ doz 2 00 @ 2 50	ordinary, ₩ lb . @ . 22

Fruits and Berries.

Apples—	Malaga, ₩ b . 50 @ . 75
₩ bbl, new . 5 00 @ 7 00	Lemons, ₩ doz . 25 @ . 37
₩ pk . . . 75 @ 1 00	Oranges—
Bananas, ₩ dz . 75 @ 1 50	Messina, ₩ dz 25 @ . 50
Cocoanuts, ea . . @ . 10	Sayal, ₩ doz 12 @ . 15
Cranberries, ₩ qt . @ . 20	Pears, ₩ doz . 2 00 @ 3 00
Grapes—	

Fruits and Nuts—Dry and Canned.

Almonds, ₩ b . 25 @ . 40	Prunes, ₩ b . . 15 @ . 20
shelled, ₩ b . 50 @ . 60	Peaches, ₩ b . 20 @ . 25
Apples, ₩ pk . . 75 @ 1 00	₩ qt can . . @ . 50

New England Farmer.

Vol. LI. Old Series. } 1872.
Vol. XXVII. New Series. }

TERMS.

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General Intelligence.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Erastus Corning, of Albany, one of the best known and most influential business men of the State of New York, died on Monday of last week. He was a native of Norwich, Ct., where he was born in 1764. When thirteen years of age he entered the hardware store of his uncle, Benjamin Smith at Troy, a larger part of whose property he subsequently inherited. In 1814 he removed to Albany, where he established the iron house which has achieved so wide a reputation in commercial circles, and which has been noted for its remarkable success. Mr. Corning held many positions of public trust. He was an alderman in Albany, and for three years mayor. He was three times elected to Congress, resigning on account of his health during his last term. He was a Regent of the University of New York. He was also a member of the Peace Congress of 1861. He was President of an Albany Bank, and was for many years President of the New York Central Railroad. He was a man of enlarged views, capacious plans and strict integrity and honor. He leaves a fortune estimated by some as high as $10,000,000.

Mr. Edwin Forrest was compelled by a severe attack of fever and a hoarse cold to give up appearing as Virginius at the Globe Theatre on Wednesday evening, 3d, and subsequently to cancel his engagement. At latest accounts he was improving, and it was hoped he would be able to get out the latter part of this week, should no unfavorable change occur.

The United States Senate has confirmed the following nominations; Joseph F. Green, Rear Admiral; John C. Howell, Commodore.

Mr. Peshine Smith, who was the Solicitor at the State Department at Washington, and who was employed by the Japanese Government as its diplomatic adviser, has failed to give satisfaction at Yeddo, and some of the other Americans sent there to fill official positions are equally unpopular.

A cable dispatch brings the intelligence from Rome that the Hon. George P. Marsh of Vermont, the American Minister to the Kingdom of Italy, is all of a fever, but it is thought that it is not dangerous.

A lady, just returned from Florida and who has seen Mrs. Stowe, states that the injury she received from a fall was very slight indeed. Mrs. Stowe has agreed with the Lecture Bureau of this city, to give a series of readings next fall from her own compositions.

The Mormon Conference has unanimously re-elected Brigham Young President of the Church, George A. Smith 1st Councilor, Daniel H. Wells 2d Councilor, and Orson Hyde President of quorum of twelve apostles.

TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.

SEVENTY LIVES LOST.—On Thursday morning, 11th, the steamer Oceanus, from Red River to St. Louis, when thirty miles above Cairo, Ill., exploded her boiler, blowing her upper works almost entirely away, immediately after which the wreck took fire and burned to the water's edge. Thompson, a pilot of the steamer John Lumsden, which was lying a few miles below, on seeing the light from the burning wreck, manned a yawl and proceeded up the river to ascertain the cause. He found a small party of survivors on Head Island, but passed on to relieve those on the wreck. Ten or twelve were clinging to the wheel, but the wheel dropped before he reached them, and all but four were lost. The steamer Belle of St. Louis, bound up, took nearly all the survivors. Harry Tripp, the pilot, who was on the watch, and Captain Reader, were buried in the debris, and were heard calling desperately for help, but the fire had gained such headway that they could not be reached and were burned.

The Belle arrived at St. Louis on the 12th, with 28 survivors and the bodies of 7 who died on the way. The books and papers of the Oceanus were lost, and a complete list cannot therefore be made. It is thought there were about 100 persons on board, and the loss of life is about 70. It is thought the explosion was the result of the boat striking a bar and breaking her connecting pipes.

RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION.—On Friday of last week, at a meeting of the stockholders of the Cape Cod Railroad, for the purpose of taking action upon the consolidation of the Old Colony and Cape Cod Railroads, the Directors presented their report, giving the terms which had been proposed by the Old Colony road, which was upon a basis of twenty-three shares of the Cape Cod stock for seventeen shares of the Old Colony. After considerable debate a motion to accept the terms was adopted, only three votes being in the negative.

On the same day the stockholders of the Old Colony and Newport Railroad met at the station in this city, and voted 8186 to 139 to accept the act of consolidation. It was voted that the corporation should be henceforth called "The Old Colony Railroad." It was also determined to complete the road to Wood's Hole and Provincetown.

PIMPLES AND QUARTS of filthy catarrhal discharges. Where does it all come from? The mucous membrane, lining the chambers of the nose, and its little glands, are discared, so that they draw from the blood its liquid and exposure to the air changes it into corruption. This life-liquid was to build up the system, but it is extracted and the system is weakened by the loss. To cure, gain flesh and strength by using Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which also acts directly upon these glands, correcting them, apply Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy with Dr. Pierce's Nasal Douche, the only method of reaching the upper cavities where the discharge accumulates and comes from. The instrument and two medicines sold for $2 by all Druggists.

In this age of fast things, our people make no nice distinctions, but whether their occupation be walking, riding, working, reading or eating, they do them all with a *rush*; consequently we are the most dyspeptic people in the world. As it is too late for us to *remedy* the *cause* in our own cases, the best thing to be done is to find some way to *change the effect*, and this can be done by WHITE'S SPECIALTY, which from pure merit and virtue alone is fast overtaking, and bids fair to exceed, in its sale, all the old popular medicines of the day.—*Congregationalist.*

SEED CORN.—See advertisement of A. M. Everts, in another column.

THE NEXT NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the New England Agricultural Society was held at Studio Building on Saturday, at which, says the *Journal*, proposals were received from the No. Middlesex Agricultural Society for holding the next fair of the society in the city of Lowell. The sentiment of the committee is favorable to accepting the proposition, but a letter received from the President of the Rhode Island Society of Domestic Economy, requesting a delay until next week before deciding where to hold the fair, in order to enable that society to make a formal proposition, induced the committee to hold the matter in abeyance until the proposals of the Rhode Island Society are received. If the New England Society should express a desire to go to Providence they are guarantied a warm welcome, and if the citizens of Lowell and the railroads connecting therewith desire to have the fair held at that point they must act liberally and at once to secure the decision in their favor. The committee adjourned to the second day of May.

THE PEACE JUBILEE.—There has been nothing of special interest to note for some days. Work progresses favorably on the building, the south end being well up, and the raising of the trusses for the roof well commence this week. Rehearsals are now in order with all the societies, and "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land," prophetical of the coming flood of melody in June.

SEED CORN.—See advertisement of A. M. Everts, in another column.

The World Abroad.

CABLE DISPATCHES.

Great Britain.

LONDON, April 10.—The claimant to the Tichborne estate appeared in the Central Criminal Court of the Old Bailey to-day answer to the charge of forgery and perjury yesterday presented against him. He pleaded not guilty to all the counts. A writ of certiorari was issued removing the case to the Court of the Queen's Bench, where the prisoner will be tried in June. Meanwhile he will be recommitted to Newgate.

LONDON, April 11.—The case of Arthur O'Connor, the assailant of the Queen, came up in the Old Bailey this morning. The prisoner made an ineffectual attempt to withdraw his plea of guilty of the charge of assault, with mitigating ground of insanity. A jury was empaneled to inquire into the mental condition of the prisoner. The jury were satisfied of his sanity, and brought in a verdict of guilty. O'Connor was sentenced to be imprisoned for 12 months hard labor, and to receive 20 lashes.

The French Trans-Atlantic Telegraph Company have concluded a contract with the Telegraph Maintenance and Construction Company for laying a fourth telegraphic cable between Europe and America.

The prospectus of the American Atlantic Telegraph Company, proposing to lay a cable from Milford Haven to Rye Beach, New Hampshire, direct, will be issued next week.

In the House of Common to-night, John Bright took his seat for the first time since his protracted illness.

Barque Aldaman, of Bath, Me., foundered at sea on the 13th ult. Seven of her crew were lost.

LONDON, April 12. The *Times* on the Alabama claims controversy says: The British Government will deliver its counter case at Geneva on the 15th, but not regard this act as prejudicing the position it has taken in opposition to the American claims for indirect damages. If the United States shall not, before the tribunal is ready with its award, have abandoned its claim for consequential damages than Great Britain will withdraw her ratification of the Treaty of Washington.

The weather throughout England to-day is fair and favorable to the growing crops. In this city a summer temperature prevails, the mercury being 83° in the shade.

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. Rathbone asked whether the Government had sent or intended to send its counter case respecting the Alabama claims to the Geneva Board.

Mr. Gladstone replied that the case had been prepared and dispatched to Geneva. Touching the contents of the document he would say that there was nothing relative to the claims for indirect damages. A note accompanied the case, containing a declaration on the part of the Government for the purpose of receiving all the rights appertaining to the Queen in this arbitration, so that in the future the Government may not be supposed to have implied compromise. Mr. Schenck, American Minister, had been duly informed of the course taken, and notified Lord Granville that there was no objection on his part.

The American counter case would be presented to the Geneva tribunal without prejudice to the rights of either party. Mr. Schenck had since informed Lord Granville that the Government of the United States concurred in the view that the presentation of either counter cases would not affect the position assumed by Great Britain on the question of indirect claims.

Disraeli wanted to have the papers produced, and asked whether Lord Chief Justice Cockburn was to resume his duties as a member of the Geneva Board.

To the latter question Mr. Gladstone replied affirmatively. He promised that the British counter case would be laid before Parliament at an early day. He praised the House and England for their forbearance, and the people and Congress of the United States for refraining from making attempts to embarass the question. The last note which was sent to Washington had not yet been answered.

When the reply was received no one would be more willing to take the House more completely acquainted with the details of the negotiations than himself.

Disraeli said that he wanted to impress it upon the Government that the country was desirous of clearly understanding the conditions under which the Government sent its counter case to Geneva. This very act admitted on the surface the justic of the American claim for indirect damages.

Mr. Gladstone made no further reply, but again promised that the documents would be speedily forthcoming.

Earl Granville, in the House of Lords to-night, made replies in substance the same as those of Gladstone's to questions put by Lord Stanley. Care had been taken, he said, to so frame the counter case and accompanying documents as to leave to Great Britain the right to withdraw from arbitration should the differences on the subject of indirect damages not be settled.

Earl Russell thought that the Government had failed to escape from the difficulty. He declared that they ought not, under any circumstances, to consent to be questioned for claims for indirect losses. Lord Russell then gave notice that on the 22d inst. he should bring in a motion for an address to the Queen, praying that instructions be given that the proceedings before the arbitrators at Geneva be suspended until the United States withdraw their claims for indirect damages.

In the House of Commons, later in the evening, Sir Wilfred Lawson moved an address to the Crown, praying that measures be taken for the withdrawal of Great Britain from any treaty binding her not to interfere with other nations by war. After a protracted debate the motion was negatived 276 to 21.

LONDON, April 13.—The claimant to the Tichborne estate, now in confinement at Newgate prison, awaiting trial for perjury and forgery, succeeded in obtaining bail in the requisite £50,000, as fixed by Lord Chief Justice Bovill, but the Judge's decision on the presentation of his bondsmen, declined accepting them, and the prisoner consequently will remain in jail until the day of his trial in June next.

LONDON, April 14.—The *Observer* says that Lord Tenterden and Hon. Caleb Cushing will present the counter cases of their respective Governments at Geneva to-morrow. The sitting of the board will be very brief. Cushing, Davis and Evarts, counsel for the American Government, will prolong their stay in Paris until June. They are of opinion that the Board of Arbitration is bound to adjudicate the Alabama claims after the delivery of the counter cases, even should one of the litigants withdraw.

GENEVA, April 14.—The British and American gentlemen connected with the tribunal of arbitration have arrived here, and the presentation of the counter cases will take place to-morrow.

LIVERPOOL, April 14.—Miss Nellie Grant, daughter of President Grant, arrived yesterday and was received by Mr. Dudley, American Consul. Miss Grant proceeds to London Monday.

The Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster has been offered to John Bright.

LONDON, April 15.—The journals this morning renew the discussion of the Alabama claims question and the presentation of the counter cases at Geneva to-day from their various political standpoints. The majority are decided in the expression of the opinion that the Ministry must adhere to the position taken against submission to the arbitration of indirect claims presented in the American case. It is stated that the steamer Republic, which sailed from New York Saturday, is to bring important dispatches from the American Government on this subject. Schenck went to Ventnor, Isle of Wight, Saturday, and returns to-morrow.

GENEVA, April 15.—The sitting of the tribunal for the settlement of the Alabama claims opened at 9.30 o'clock this morning and terminated at noon. The statement that Count Sclopis presided was incorrect. None of the five arbitrators were present. Great Britain and the United States only were represented—the former by Lord Tenterden and Messrs. Taylor and Barnard, and the latter by Messrs J. Bancroft Davis, Caleb Cushing and Charles C. Gaines. The official proceedings were confined to the delivery of documents to the Secretary of the tribunal, who will transmit them to the arbitrators.

Markets.—Cotton steady and firm—sales of the week, 70,000 bales. Breadstuffs dull. Bonds have been steady—the closing rates on Tuesday were:—Coupons 62⅞; U. S. 5-20s. (ex coupon) 1862, 90¾; do. 1865, old, 91¾; do. 1867, 93¾; U. S. 10-40s, 89¾.

France.

PARIS, April 10.—The authorities of the French Departments on the Spanish border have been instructed by the Government of Versailles to arrest all Spanish refugees and send them to the Basque provinces for detention. They have also been ordered to stop all packages going into Spain containing cartridges or powder.

Gambetta arrived at Brest to-day. He will continue his tour through Brittany.

The Councils General of the Departments of Vosges and Cotes du Nord have passed votes of confidence in President Thiers.

LONDON, April 10.—A dispatch from Paris to the *Times* says that Thiers has formally declared that the order requiring persons entering France to have their passports shall be abolished, and henceforth travellers will be registered at the frontiers and no tax levied therefore, nor will they be subject to the scrutiny of civil officers while sojourning in the country.

PARIS, April 11.—Casimer Periere, who was tendered the Ministry of Finance, has declined the appointment. It is now probable that there will be no change in the Cabinet for some time, and Girard, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, has been Minister of Finance pro tem, and upon the retirement of Quertier will continue to occupy both positions.

There is no truth in the rumor that Rouher took three millions of francs to Napoleon at Chiselhurst.

The Germans yesterday arrested the editor of a newspaper at Vitry le Francais for writing an article offensive to the military authorities. The prisoner has been taken to Rheims.

PARIS, April 14.—Thiers held a brilliant reception at the palace of Elysee yesterday. It was attended by nearly a thousand persons. Among them were the Duke of Nemours, Count of Paris, Duke of Alencon and Prince of Coburg Gotha.

PARIS, April 15.—The abrogation of the passport system takes effect the 20th inst.

LONDON, April 15.—Reports are current that troubles have grown out of the recent diplomatic negotiations between France and Germany. The relations between the two countries are said to be again in so critical a condition that grave complications may be apprehended.

Germany.

BERLIN, April 10.—Forty thousand women of Alsace and Lorraine have addressed a petition to Prince Bismarck, in which they ask that their fathers and sons be exempted from service in the German army for a few years.

BERLIN, April 15.—The Reichstag to-day passed to a third reading the bill ratifying the Consular Convention between the United States and the German Empire.

Spain.

MADRID, April 10.—Fuller returns of the recent elections for members of the Cortes have been received, and the list now stands as follows: Ministerialists, 201; Radicals, 62; Republicans, 42; Carlists, 38; Opposition Conservatives, 32.

The movements of the Carlists in Catalonia and Gallicia, which it was believed indicated a general rising, are not so important as was first thought, and probably will be speedily suppressed.

MADRID, April 11.—The Internationalists are very active in Spain, and there is reason to fear that the Society is organizing a movement which will declare itself simultaneously here and in other countries of Europe.

MADRID, April 13.—Troops in Catalonia are in close pursuit of the Carlists who appeared in that province. The number of Carlist bands is increasing. A party of marauders to-day made an attempt to stop a railway train when only five miles from the city of Madrid, but were unsuccessful.

MADRID, April 14.—An attempt was made last night to throw the fast train on the Madrid and Saragossa railway off the track, near Siguensca. Obstructions were placed upon the road which could not have been seen in the night, but were fortunately discovered and removed before the train reached Siguensca. News of the atrocious attempt causes great indignation, and an immediate investigation has been ordered.

Dispatches received from the Captain General of Catalonia say that disturbances are feared in Barcelona. Castell's band, 600 strong, is in the vicinity. A plan is afoot for twenty of the band to enter the city and set fire to some of the buildings, so that in the confusion all their companions can pass in and gain possession of the city. The proofs of the plot are in the hands of the authorities. A detachment of troops has been sent out to find Castell's band. The origin of the present disorders is attributed to the Internationalists, supported by Carlists and Republicans. The Minister of War has ordered the suspension of all military furloughs and the immediate return of officers to their posts.

The Church of St. Thomas was destroyed by fire last night. Several persons were injured by falling walls and timbers.

LONDON, April 15.—Advices from Madrid announce that there is a general armed rising of malcontents throughout Spain. Other dispatches state that the Government is fully prepared and competent to suppress trouble.

Sweden.

STOCKHOLM, April 13. — The health of King Charles, which has been very poor, does not improve, and fears that he may not recover are entertained.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 10.—Shocks in Inyo county continue, with loud reports as of cannon, proceeding from the summit of Mount Breckenridge. Since the first shock, which was felt from Oregon to Central America, the disturbances have been purely local, not being felt west of Sierra Nevada or out of Inyo county.

Letters from Lone Pine say that the whole of Owens Valley has been moved southward fourteen feet. Over 7000 shocks have occurred, but not one with sufficient force to do damage. The earthquake of March 26 hurled immense rocks down the cliffs into the valley of the Yo-Semite, smashing great pine trees to splinters.

An Indian runner brings a dispatch from the mouth of the Colorado river, which says the earthquake caused immense waves to roll up the Gulf of California, doing considerable damage to shipping.

A committee of 100 of the leading citizens has been formed, under the name of "Committee of Safety," to guard the interests of San Francisco against railroad monopoly. It is said the Committee will confer with the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad representatives, with a view to securing the construction of that line and maintaining it independent of the Central and Union Pacific Railroads.

FROM UTAH.

SALT LAKE CITY.—The attendance at the Mormon Conference was immense; Second President Brigham was requested by Brigham Young to say that he was comfortable, in good spirits, and regretted that circumstances prevented him attending the Conference.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 11.—The United States Associate Justice has received instructions from Washington to proceed against the Zion Co-operative Mercantile Institution for violating the revenue laws regarding the issue of their own paper as fractional currency without stamps. It is believed that an immense amount of their shinplasters are in circulation. A snow storm prevailed last night at intervals, and to-day the roads are almost impassable.

SALT LAKE, April 13.—The snow avalanche Thursday and yesterday at Little Cottonwood was the most fearful ever known in this region. The slide at the Wellington mine came from a height of 2000 feet, carrying away everything in its course and burying the entire day force of workmen. The men were dug out alive with the exception of the foreman, H. H. Murray, whose body was brought here to-day. Seven men were caught in another slide, but were rescued. Two men at the Davenport mine were buried in a cabin, but escaped. Other slides are anticipated. In the storm of the last few days snow fell six feet on the level. Mr. Murray, who was killed at the Wellington mine, was from Rhode Island. He was agent of a party of seven, and was highly esteemed.

SALT LAKE, April 14.—At the conference to-day a number of home missionaries were appointed and the conference adjourned till next Sunday. The reason of this adjournment, which is unusual, it is reported, is because intelligence is expected from Washington that will enable Brigham Young to close the conference in person.

The miners in the southern portion of the Territory are forming secret organizations to oppose the secret influence of the Mormons, and among other objects to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Mountain Meadow massacre. Over two hundred members have already joined.

Several more snow slides are reported from Little Cottonwood. Two feet of additional snow fell there last night. In this city last night the snow fell six inches deep, but is melting rapidly. It has been the worst spring ever known.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ The Vermont farmers say it is a poor sugar year.

☞ The Maine Agricultural Society has decided to hold the State Fair at Bangor this year and next.

☞ The St. Albans butter market was active on Tuesday, 9th. Winter dairies, 28 to 30 cents; spring dairies, 31 to 35 cents, and 36 to 38 cents for extra lots.

☞ The buildings, consisting of house and barn, owned by Andrew P. Gilman of Alton, N. H., were entirely consumed by fire on the 14th. Loss, $3000; insured for $1200.

☞ At Attleboro' on Friday, 12th, Mrs. Mary Brown was engaged in burning over the grass plot near her residence, when her clothing took fire and she was so terribly burned that there is little hope of her recovery.

☞ The engine house and guano house belonging to the Atlantic Oil and Guano Company at Boothbay, Me., were destroyed by fire Saturday night, together with their contents. Insured.

☞ The Anchor Line streamer Dacian, with a cargo valued at half a million dollars, went ashore Tuesday, 9th, on Flint Rocks, 45 miles from Halifax. Passengers and crew safe. Part of the cargo saved; the vessel a total loss.

☞ A lady writer says, if women were as particular in choosing a virtuous husband as men are in selecting a virtuous wife, a moral reformation would soon begin which would be something more than froth and foam.

☞ Barnard Little, who committed the homicide at Dix Island, Me., has been convicted of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to hard labor in the State Prison for the rest of his life.

☞ The loss of the coal and barges swept away by the sudden rise in the Ohio river at Cincinnati, last week, is estimated at $150,000 to $200,000, after deducting the barges picked up by the boats sent in pursuit.

☞ Mr. Benjamin D. Frost, the State Engineer of the Hoosac Tunnel, says that the probable time of the meeting of the headings of the tunnel will be in April, 1874, two years from now.

☞ The Mississippi river now lacks but five feet of being even with the top of the banks on the Arkansas side, opposite Memphis, Tenn., and is rising rapidly. Should it get over the bank the width opposite Memphis will be forty miles.

☞ The Selectmen of Gosport, N. H., were indicted by the Grand Jury at Exeter on Friday, 12th, the action being fraudulent proceedings on the part of the authorities of the town alluded to, whereby an election was prevented March 13.

☞ A tornado in Jasper county, Illinois, on the 6th, demolished houses, barns, forests, &c. Two houses were torn to pieces in Newton, and Mrs. Mehany, Mr. Pope and Mrs. Lyttle killed, and several others of their families injured.

☞ The boiler of the Phenix woolen mills in Stafford, Conn., exploded on the 10th, and the engineer, John M. Edson, was very seriously and probably fatally injured. Two other men were injured, but not seriously. The building was completely demolished. Loss $10,000; uninjured.

☞ The steamship Tiger, from Newfoundland, brings newspapers of the 10th inst. One hundred and forty-five vessels had cleared from different ports for seal fishing. Several steamers had returned, with results as follows: Monticello with 3000, Ranger with 16,000, Wolf with 10,000, Commodore with 9000, Hector with 10,000, and Breadalbane with 1500 seals.

☞ Mechanics and laborers of all kinds are busy at the Union Pacific transfer grounds at Council Bluffs, Iowa, putting up a ticket office, telegraph offices, round-houses, waiting-rooms, eating houses and saloons, laying tracks, grading streets, loading and unloading cars for the five great roads, where a few weeks ago were hundreds of acres of level prairie, without a house upon them.

☞ The dam at the Kendall mills in Athol was greatly damaged by a flood on Thursday, 11th. The dry house, a building one hundred feet in length, was moved some six feet from its foundation. The water and ice rushed down upon the dam of the cotton factory, carrying away about one-third of it.

☞ Fifty-two buildings at Lone Pine, Cal., about three-fourths of the entire town, were shaken down by the recent earthquake. Twenty-seven persons were killed there, and thirty-four seriously injured. While the survivors were interring the dead, the cemetery was in a constant tremor, with occasional shocks.

☞ Eleazer Marshall, a young married man, was killed at South Paris, Me., on the 10th, by being run over by a freight train. He was loading a platform car with grain, and just as the train moved off he seized the last bag, and as he threw it his foot slipped, and he fell under the wheel, which passed over his body, killing him instantly. He lived at West Paris.

Business Notices.

SEWING MACHINE SALES FOR 1871.

The magnitude to which the sewing machine business has grown is only surpassed by the rivalry of the various competitors, few of whom are unfamiliar with the numerous artifices resorted to for the commendation and sale of the particular machine sought to be sold. If the number of sales be any criterion of merit, the Singer seems to bear the palm, as shown by sworn returns of the companies, made under the licenses granted them by the owners of the sewing machine patents, and which are as follows:

THE SINGER MF'G CO. . . .	Sold	181,200 Machines.
Wheeler & Wilson Mf'g Co. . .	"	228,526 "
Grover & Baker S. M. Co. . .	"	50,838 "
Weed S. M. Co.	"	39,655 "
Howe Machine Co. (Jan. 1, to July 1)	"	34,010 "
Wilcox & Gibbs S. M. Co. . .	"	30,127 "
Wilson S. M. Co.	"	27,153 "
Amer. B. H. O. & S. M. Co. .	"	20,121 "
Original Howe S. M. Co. . .	"	20,051 "
Florence S. M. Co.	"	15,947 "
Gold Medal S. M. Co. . . .	"	13,562 "
Davis S. M. Co.	"	11,568 "
Domestic S. M. Co.	"	10,307 "
Finkle & Lyon Mf'g Co. . . .	"	7,639 "
Etna S. M. Co.	"	4,720 "
Bliss S. M. Co.	"	4,557 "
Illiptic S. M. Co.	"	4,355 "
Empire S. M. Co.	"	2,965 "
Parham S. M. Co.	"	2,050 "

The Chicago Relief Committee's returns show a like result:

THE SINGER	2,427
Wheeler & Wilson	235
Howe	127
Grover & Baker	44
Wilcox & Gibbs	30
Florence	18
Finkle & Lyon	20
Bliss	17
Etna	11
Wilson	5
Western Empire	2
Manhattan	2
Davis	1
Illiptic	1
Gold Medal	2
American Button-Hole	2

We are told that the applicant in every case has designated the kind of machine desired.—*New York Daily Witness.*

1w16

A GREAT MYSTERY.

In all the crowds upon the street,
Two *just alike* we never meet;
Though some resemblance we may see,
Some difference there will always be;
This fact will every one admit,
While some may think quite strange of it,
And each one in the crowd agrees
'Tis one of life's great mysteries;
But 'tis not strange when Boys need "CLOTHES,"
Coat, Pants, Vest, Hat and *Shoes* complete,
That they should buy at GEORGE FENNO'S,
Corner of Beach and Washington street. 1w16

HEAD QUARTERS.

As we mean to reduce our Fall stock of Carpetings by liberal inducements to purchasers, the present will be a good time to replenish.

English Tapestries, ... $1 15 per yard.
Heavy Kidderminster, ... 1 00 " "
India Brussels, ... 75 " "
Ingrain Carpetings, ... 62½ " "
Dundee, ... 50 " "
Hemp, ... 25 " "

and other grades proportionately low.

PEASLEY & BOND,
47 Washington Street.
4w16

Richards' Historical Catechism.

What large and elegant building, occupied as a fashionable tenement House, stands directly opposite upon the corner of Tremont and Boylston Streets fronting the Common? THE HOTEL PELHAM.

What imposing brick structure used for public purposes, stands a little to the west of this upon Boylston Street? THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

What are its dimensions? It is eighty-two feet long one hundred and twenty-eight feet deep and two stories high.

When was the Library organized? In 1852. The building was commenced in 1855 and dedicated the 1st day of May, 1858. It cost with the grounds about $363,000. It possesses a permanent fund bequeathed to it for the purchase of Books, of nearly $100,000. It has also about 100,000 books besides pamphlets, maps, and other articles. It is open FREE to all the citizens of Boston to whom nearly a thousand volumes are distributed daily.

Where do the host of BOYS who frequent it find the best place to buy their CLOTHING? At GEORGE H. RICHARDS' GREAT CLOTHING HOUSE, 24 and 25 DOCK SQUARE. 1w16

Scrofulous Humors.—The VEGETINE has cured many cases of Scrofula of long and painful standing, where the patient has had many physicians tried many of the known remedies; and, after trying the VEGETINE, the common remark is, "It acts differently, works differently, from any medicine I have ever taken." VEGETINE will cleanse scrofula from the system. Try it. 1w16

The standard medicine for the complaints peculiar to females is Duponco's Golden Pill. 1w16

Delicate Creatures.—This is the phrase applied by His Blackness, the Moor of Venice, to the fair ladies of Italy. It was the lovely complexion of Desdemona, such a radiant contrast to his own, that won his heart; and sooth to say, every man of discernment considers a fair skin, like a sweet voice, "an excellent thing in woman." Now this is a gift which few possess by nature. There is a healthful and odoriferous toilet article, known everywhere as HAGAN'S MAGNOLIA BALM, which gradually renders a dark or sallow complexion as enchanting as the discolored face, neck, arms and bosom with a nacreous pearly tinge, and imparting to the surface a smoothness and softness that is indescribable. Instead of clogging the pores, like the sticky enamels, or contracting them, and thus obstructing perspiration, like the astringent cosmetics, it cleanses the skin from all impurities and wonderfully improves its texture. This peculiarity is particularly appreciated by our rural belles, who find that the coarseness and roughness, which country air is apt to engender, are speedily removed from their faces, hands and arms, by this delightful preparation. 1w16

CARPETS.

Special Sale at Low Prices.

All our cut stock in retail departments will be sold off to close the same. English Tapestries for $1.10; Superfine two plies, 75 cents; Ingrain two-plies, 62½c cents; Union two-plies, 42 cents; India Brussels, 75 cents; Dundee (imitation three-plies) 37½ cents; Hemp Carpets, 20 cents; Canton Mattings, 20 cents; Wool Venetian Stairs, 37½ cents; Floor Oil Cloths, 37½ cents; over 1000 Rugs, Velvet Brussels, Wilton, Common Mats and Crumbe Cloths, of various sizes. Also many style high grade Carpets in Brussels, Tapestries, Three-Plies and Kidderminster. Our Customers will do well to anticipate their spring purchases at this sale.

New England Carpet Company,
New Warehouse, 76 to 82 Friend street, second building from Hanover street, Boston. 4w13

SKIN DISEASES.

PERRY'S IMPROVED COMEDONE AND PIMPLE REMEDY—The Skin Medicine of the Age. Is warranted to cure RED, WHITE, and MATTERATED Pimples; FLESH WORMS, and BLOTCHED disfigurations of the face.

Prepared only by DR. B. C. PERRY, Dermatologist, 49 Bond Street, New York. Sold by *Druggists everywhere.* 13w11

FOR MOTHS PATCHES, FRECKLES

AND TAN ON THE FACE, use PERRY'S MOTH AND FRECKLE LOTION. It reliable and harmless. Sold by all druggists. 13w11

MORTGAGE LOANS

On City Property, in sums *40 to 12 per cent.* Interest payable semi-annually. Send for a circular.
COCHRAN & WALSH,
12teow10 Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, 6th inst., by the Right Rev. Bishop Eastburn, Mr. Thomas Motley, Jr., to Miss Eleanor, daughter of the late Dr. J. Mason Warren.

9th inst., by Rev. Dr. Vinton, Rev. Timothy Atkinson to Regina, daughter of the late Hon. B. G. Clark.

10th inst., by Rev. Dr. Putnam, Mr. Atherton Blight of Philadelphia to Nina, daughter of Richard S. Greenough, Esq., of this city.

3d inst., by Rev. C. H. Williams, Mr. Charles B. Ford to Mrs. Sarah S. Thayer, both of Milton.

11th inst., by Rev. Alexander Blackie, D. D., Mr. Stephen A. Barnes to Miss Mary Tainter, both of Cohasset.

10th inst., by Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D. D., Rev. Horatio Krans to Miss Charlotte Wayland Sheafe.

In Boston, Highlands, 12th inst., by Rev. J. L. T. Coolidge, D. D., William H. Ruddick, M. D., to Miss S. Ada Means.

In Bridgewater, 11th inst., by Rev. Mr. Hosmer, Mr. Henry A. Blake of Abington to Miss Helen Forester, daughter of Nahum Stetson.

In Arlington, 3d inst., by Rev. George W. Cutter, Mr. Aivah W. Brown to Miss Fannie B. Russell.

In East Boston, 11th inst., by Rev. Warren H. Cudworth, Mr. Charles L. Goodnough to Mrs. Hattie A. Cummings.

In Chelsea, 10th inst., by Rev. J. B. Green, Captain Edgar S. McDonald to Miss Jennie H. Patterson, both of Belfast, Me.

In New Haven, 10th inst., by Rev. E. L. Clarke, Mr Robert Loudon of Boston to Miss Clara Lumb.

DIED.

In this city, 12th inst., Mrs. Huldah P., widow of the late John Whipple, 69 yrs.

14th inst., Mary E., wife of James Cheever, 70 yrs. 7 mos.

14th inst., Mrs. Hannah Partridge, 74 yrs.

In Boston Highlands, 9th inst., J. R. Garcia, 79 yrs; 11th inst., Lucy Crowninshield, wife of G. Crowninshield, 56.

In Cambridge, 9th inst., Isabella, widow of the late Charles Hammatt, 83 yrs.

In Belmont, 8th inst., Deacon Wm. Hill, aged 73.

In Concord, Mass., 8th inst., Mrs. Sarah B. Smith, 84 yrs. 8 mos.

In Salem, Rebecca, widow of Williams Clemons, 84 yrs; Captain Jonathan Batchelder, 79.

In Newburyport, 6th inst., Miss Mary Dalton Hodge, 86 yrs.

In Wayland, 9th inst., Miss Dorcas Baldwin, 88 yrs. 6 mos.

In Taunton, 7th inst., Zenas Knapp, 80.

In New York, 6th inst., William Hooper Blackly, formerly of Boston and Marblehead, aged 58.

In Lunenburg, 9th inst., Mrs. Eliza Billings, wife of Hon. Thomas Billings, 74.

In Plymouth, 10th inst., Mrs. Mercy Morton, widow of the late Seth Morton, 96 yrs. 10 dys.

In Waldoboro', Me., 9th inst., Mrs. Eliza Dana, widow of the late Thomas Gay, Esq.

In Carmel, Me., 11th inst., Annie Ruggles, wife of Edward S. Rich of South Boston, 28 yrs. 8 mos.

In Leominster, 6th inst., Mrs. Charlotte Barrows, 78.

In Cambridgeport, 12th inst., Amanda M., wife of Charles H. Titus, 35 yrs. 11 mos.

In East Boston, 12th inst., Elizabeth F., wife of Alexander Porter, 38 yrs; 13th inst., Mrs. Mary C., wife of Nathaniel Dexter, 71 yrs.

In Dorchester, 11th inst., Henry Clark, 80 yrs. 8 mos.

In Neponset, 12th inst., Lucy, wife of John Mears, 76 yrs. 8 mos.

In Ipswich, 12th inst., Mrs. Joanna, widow of the late Deacon Isaac Stanwood, 83 yrs.

In Topsham, Me., 6th inst., Mrs. Sarah Graves, widow of the late Wm. Graves, aged 92 yrs.

In South Boston, 10th inst., Thomas Spinney

Poetry.

From the Aldine for April.

LIVERWORTS.

They were laughing in the meadow,
They are smiling in the dell;
Upon the woody hill-tops
The blue-eyed beauties dwell;
And unto those who love them
A pleasant tale they tell.

They speak of sunny weather,
Of birds and babbling brooks,
Of walks within the forest glens,
And rest within its nooks,
And many a dreamy fancy
Recorded not in books.

From fallen leaves and withered
They mischievously peep,
And laugh at later flowers
Unwakened from their sleep,
While tenderly they guard them,
And loving vigil keep.

In modest maiden beauty
Some blush along the way,
While others deck the meadows,
Or by the fountains stray,
In white or blue habiliments
To greet the April day.

They seem to frolic ever,
Now hiding from my sight,
And then together clustering
As if in half affright,
Yet conscious of their holiday,
And happy in the light.

No other coming flowers
To me are dear as they,
Of those that bloom in April,
Or in the genial May:
I would that thus to comfort me
They ever more would stay!

For tales of vanished childhood
To me they sweetly sing,
And to the fading memory
They recollections bring
Of home and loving faces—
A precious offering.

Unplucked I leave them growing
Full thick about my feet;
I cannot call them toyward
From out their fair retreat;
No refuge has the city
For anything so sweet.

The story that they tell me
Of pleasure and content,
Of hope and trusting confidence
However faith is bent—
This lesson I can bear away—
To teach it they were sent.

A Selected Story.

THE NEIGHBOR-IN-LAW.

BY MRS. LYDIA M. CHILD.

Who blesses others in his daily deeds,
Will find the healing that his spirit needs;
For every flower in others' pathway strewn
Confers its fragrant beauty on our own.

"So you are going to live in the same building with Hetty Turnpenny," said Mrs. Lane to Mrs. Fairweather. "You will find nobody to envy you. If her temper does not prove too much even for your good nature, it will surprise all who know her. We lived there a year, and that is as long as anybody ever tried it."

"Poor Hetty!" replied Mrs. Fairweather, "she has had much to harden her. Her mother died too early for her to remember; her father was very severe with her; and the only lover she ever had borrowed the savings of her years of toil, and spent them in dissipation. But Hetty, notwithstanding her sharp features, and sharper words, certainly had a kind heart. In the midst of her greatest poverty many were the stockings she knit, and the warm waistcoats she made, for the poor drunken lover whom she had too much sense to marry. Then you know she feeds and clothes her brother's orphan child.

"If you call it feeding and clothing," replied Mrs. Lane. "The poor child looks cold and pinched, and frightened all the time, as if she were chased by the east wind. I used to tell Miss Turnpenny she ought to be ashamed of herself to keep the poor little thing at work all the time, without one minute to play. she does but look at the cat, as it runs by the window, Aunt Hetty gives her a rap over the knuckles. I used to tell her she would make the girl just such another sour old crab as herself."

"That must have been very improving to her disposition," replied Mrs. Fairweather, with a good-humored smile. "But, in justice to poor Aunt Hetty, you should remember that she had just such a cheerless childhood herself. Flowers grow where there is sunshine."

"I know you think everybody ought to live in the sunshine," replied Mrs. Lane; "and it must be confessed that you carry it with you wherever you go. If Miss Turnpenny has a heart I dare say you will find it out, though I never could, and I never heard of anybody that could. All the families within hearing of her tongue called her the neighbor-in-law."

Certainly the prospect was not very encouraging; for the house Mrs. Fairweather proposed to occupy was not only under the same roof with Miss Turnpenny, but the building had one common yard in front. The very first day she took possession of her new habitation she called on the neighbor-in-law. Aunt Hetty had taken the precaution to extinguish the fire, lest the new neighbor should want hot water, before her own wood and coal had arrived. Her first salutation was: "If you want any cold water there's a pump across the street; I don't like to have my house slopped all over."

"I am glad you are so tidy, neighbor Turnpenny," replied Mrs. Fairweather. "It is extremely pleasant to have neat neighbors. I will try to keep everything as bright as a new five cent piece, for I see that will please you. I came merely to say good morning, and to ask you if you could spare little Peggy to run up and down stairs for me, while I am getting my furniture in order. I will pay her sixpence an hour."

Aunt Hetty began to purse up her mouth for a refusal; but the promise of sixpence an hour relaxed her features at once. Little Peggy sat knitting a stocking very diligently, with a rod lying on the table beside her. She looked up with timid wistfulness as if the prospect of any change was like a release from prison. When she heard consent given, a bright color flushed her cheeks. She was evidently of an impressible temperament, for good or evil. "Now mind, and behave yourself," said Aunt Hetty; "and see that you keep at work the whole time; if I hear one word of complaint you know what you'll get when you come home." The rose color subsided from Peggy's pale face, and she answered: "Yes, ma'am," very meekly.

In the neighbor's house all went quite otherwise. No switch lay on the table, and instead of "Mind how you do that if you don't, I'll punish you," she heard the gentle words: "There, dear, see how carefully you can carry that up stairs. Why, what a nice, handy little girl you are!"

Under these enlivening influences Peggy worked like a bee. Aunt Hetty was always in the habit of saying: "Stop your noise, and mind your work." But the new friend patted her on the head and said: "What a pleasant voice the little girl has! It is like the birds in the fields. By-and-by you shall hear my music-box."

This opened wide the windows of the little shut-up heart, so that the sunshine could stream in, and the birds fly in and out, caroling. The happy child tuned up like a lark, as she tripped lightly up and down stairs on various household errands. But though she took care to observe all the directions given her, her head was all the time filled with conjectures what sort of a thing a music-box might be. She was a little afraid the kind lady might forget to show it to her. She kept to work, however, and asked no questions; she only looked very curiously at everything that resembled a box.

At last Mrs. Fairweather said: "I think your little feet must be tired by this time. We will rest awhile, and eat some gingerbread."

The child took the offered cake, with a humble little courtesy, and carefully held out her apron to prevent any crumbs from falling on the floor. But suddenly the apron dropped, and the crumbs were all strewed about.

"Is that a little bird?" she exclaimed eagerly. "Where is he? Is he in this room?"

The new friend smiled, and told her that was the music-box, and after awhile she opened it, and explained what made the sounds. Then she took out a pile of books from one of the baskets of goods, and told Peggy she might look at the pictures till she called her.

The little girl stepped forward eagerly to take them, and then drew back, as if afraid.

"What is the matter?" asked Mrs. Fairweather. "I am very willing to trust you with the books. I keep them on purpose to amuse children."

"Aunt Turnpenny won't like it if I play."

"Don't trouble yourself about that. I will make it all right with Aunt Hetty," replied the friendly one.

Thus assured, she gave herself up to the full enjoyment of the picture books; and when she was summoned to her work, she obeyed with a cheerful alacrity that would have astonished her stern relative. When the labors of the day were concluded, Mrs. Fairweather accompanied her home, paid for all the hours she had been absent, and warmly praised her docility and diligence.

"It is lucky for her that she behaved so well," replied Aunt Hetty; "if I had heard any complaint I should have given her a whipping, and sent her to bed without her supper."

Poor little Peggy went to sleep that night with a lighter heart than she had ever felt since she had been an orphan. Her first thought in the morning was whether the new neighbor would want her services during the day. Her desire that it should be so soon became obvious to Aunt Hetty, and excited an undefined jealousy and dislike of a person who so easily made herself beloved. Without exactly acknowledging to herself what were her own motives, she ordered Peggy to gather all the sweepings of the kitchen and court into a small pile, and leave it on the frontier of her neighbor's premises. Peggy ventured to ask timidly whether the wind would not blow it about, and received a box on the ear for her impertinence.

It chanced that Mrs. Fairweather, quite unintentionally, heard the words and the blow. She gave Aunt Hetty's anger time to cool, then, stepping out into the court, and after arranging divers little matters, she called aloud to her domestic:

"Sally, how came you to leave this pile of dirt here? Didn't I tell you Miss Turnpenny was very neat? Pray, make haste and sweep it up. I would not have her to see it on any account. I told her that I would try to keep everything so nice about the premises. She is so particular herself, and it is a comfort to have tidy neighbors."

The girl, who had been previously instructed, smiled as she came out, with brush and dustpan, and swept quietly away the pile, that was intended as a declaration of frontier war.

But another source of annoyance presented itself, which could not be quite so easily disposed of. Aunt Hetty had a cat, a lean, scraggy animal, that looked as if she was often licked and seldom fed; Mrs. Fairweather also had a fat, frisky little dog, always ready for a caper. He took a dislike to poor, poverty-stricken Tab the first time he saw her, and no coaxing could induce him to alter his opinion. His name was Pink, but he was anything but a pink of behavior to his neighborly relations. Poor Tab could never set foot out of the door without being saluted with a growl and a sharp bark that frightened her out of her senses, and made her run into the house, with her fur all on end. If she ventured to doze a little on her own door-step, the enemy was on the watch, and the moment her eyes closed he would wake her with a bark and a box on the ear, and off he would run.

Aunt Hetty vowed she would scald him. It was a burning shame, she said, for folks to keep dogs to worry their neighbor's cats. Mrs. Fairweather invited Tabby to dine, and made much of her, and patiently endeavored to teach the dog to eat from the same plate. But Pink steadily resolved that he would be scalded first—that he would. He could not have been more firm in his opposition if he and Tab had belonged to different sects in Christendom. While his mistress was patting Tab on the head, and reasoning the point with him, he would at times manifest a degree of indifference, amounting to toleration; but the moment he was left to his own free will he would give the invited guest a hearty cuff with his paw, and send her home spitting like a small steam engine. Aunt Hetty considered it her own peculiar privilege to cuff the poor animal, and it was too much for her patience to see Pink undertake to assist in making Tab unhappy. On one of these occasions she rushed into her neighbor's apartments, and faced Mrs. Fairweather, with one hand resting on her hip, and the forefinger of the other making very wrathful gesticulations.

"I tell you what, madam, I won't put up with such treatment much longer, said she; "I'll poison that dog; you'll see if I don't; and I shan't wait long, either, I tell you. What you keep such an impudent little beast for, I don't know, without you do it on purpose to plague your neighbors."

"I am really sorry he behaves so," replied Mrs. Fairweather, mildly. "Poor Tab."

"Poor Tab!" screamed Miss Turnpenny. "What do you mean by calling her poor? Do you mean to fling it up to me that my cat don't have enough to eat?"

"I did not think of such a thing," replied Mrs. Fairweather. "I called her poor Tab because Pink plagues her so that she has no peace for her life. I agree with you, neighbor Turnpenny; it is not right to keep a dog that disturbs the neighborhood. I am attached to poor Pink because he belongs to my son, who has gone to sea. I was in hopes he would leave off quarreling with the cat; but if he won't be neighborly, I will send him out into the country to board. Sally, you will bring me one of the pies we baked this morning. I should like to have Mrs. Turnpenny taste of them."

The crabbed neighbor was helped abundantly, and, while she was eating the pie, the friendly matron edged in many a loud word concerning little Peggy, whom she praised as a remarkably capable, industrious child.

"I am glad you find her so," said Aunt Hetty: "I should get precious little work out of her if I did not keep the switch in sight."

"I manage children pretty much as the man did the donkey," replied Mrs. Fairweather. "Not an inch would the poor beast stir for all his master's beating and thumping. But a neighbor tied some fresh turnips to a stick, and fastened them so that they swung before the donkey's nose, and he set off on a brisk trot in hopes of overtaking them."

Aunt Hetty, without observing how very closely the comparison applied to her management of Peggy, said:

"They do very well for folks that have plenty of turnips to spare."

"For the matter of that," answered Mrs. Fairweather, "whips cost something as well as turnips; and since one makes the donkey stand still, and the other makes him trot, it is very easy to decide which is the most economical. But, neighbor Turnpenny, since you like my pies so well, pray take one home with you. I am afraid they will mould before we can eat them up."

Aunt Hetty had come for a quarrel, and was astonished to find herself going out with a pie.

"Well, Mrs. Fairweather," said she, "you are a neighbor. I thank you a thousand times."

When she reached her own door, she hesitated for an instant, then turned back, pie in hand, to say:

"Neighbor Fairweather, you needn't trouble yourself about sending Pink away. It's natural that you should like the little creature, seeing he belongs to your son. I'll try to keep Tab indoors, and, perhaps, after a while they will agree better."

"I hope they will," replied the friendly matron; "we will try them awhile longer, and, if they persist in quarreling, I will send the dog into the country."

Pink, who was sleeping on a chair, scratched himself and gaped. His kind mistress patted him on the head.

"Ah, you foolish little beast!" said she, "what is the use of plaguing poor Tab?"

"Well, I do say," observed Sally, smiling, "you are a great woman for stopping a quarrel."

"I learnt a good lesson when I was a little girl," rejoined Mrs. Fairweather. "One frosty morning, I was looking into my father's barnyard, where stood many cows, oxen, and horses, waiting to drink. It was one of those cold, snapping mornings, when a slight thing irritates both man and beast. The cattle all stood still and meek till one of the cows attempted to turn round. In making the attempt, she happened to hit her next neighbor; whereupon the neighbor kicked and hit another. In five minutes the whole herd were kicking and hooking each other with all fury. My mother laughed and said, 'see what comes of kicking when you're hit.' Just so I've seen one cross word set a whole family by the ears, some frosty morning. Afterward, if my brothers or myself were a little irritable, she would say, 'Take care, children. Remember how the fight in the barnyard began. Never give a kick for a hit, and you will save yourself and others a deal of trouble."

That same afternoon the sunshiny dame stepped into Aunt Hetty's rooms, where she found Peggy sewing as usual, with the usual switch on the table beside her. "I am obliged to go to Harlem on business," said she. "I feel rather lonely without company, and I always like to have a child with me; I will pay her fare in the omnibus."

"She has her spelling lesson to get before night," replied Aunt Hetty. "I don't approve of young folks going a pleasuring and neglecting their education."

"Neither do I," rejoined her neighbor; but I think there is a great deal of education that is not found in books. The fresh air will make Peggy grow stout and active. I prophesy she will do great credit to your bringing up."

The sugared words, and the remembrance of the sugared pie, touched the soft place in Miss Turnpenny's heart, and she told the astonished Peggy that she might go and put on her best gown and bonnet. The poor child began to think that this new neighbor was certainly one of the good fairies she had read about in the picture books. The excursion was enjoyed only as a child can enjoy the country. The world seems such a pleasant place when the fetters are off, and nature folds the young heart lovingly to her bosom. A flock of real birds and two living butterflies put the little orphan in a perfect ecstacy. She pointed to the fields covered with dandelions, and said: "See how pretty! It looks as if the stars had come down to lie on the grass." Ah, our little stinted Peggy had poetry in her, though Aunt Hetty never found it out! Every human soul has the germs of some flowers within, and they would open if they could only find sunshine and free air to expand them.

Mrs. Fairweather was a practical philosopher in her own small way. She observed that Miss Turnpenny really liked a pleasant tune; and when winter came she tried to persuade her that singing would be excellent for Peggy's lungs, and perhaps keep her from going into consumption.

"My nephew, James Fairweather, keeps a singing school," said she, "and he says he will teach her gratis. You need not feel under great obligations; for her voice will lead the whole school, and her ear is so quick it will be no trouble at all to teach her. Perhaps you would go with us sometimes, neighbor Turnpenny? It is very pleasant to hear the children's voices."

The cordage of Aunt Hetty's mouth relaxed into a smile. She accepted the invitation, and was so much pleased that she went every Sunday evening. The simple tunes, and sweet young voices, fell like the dew on her dried-up heart, and greatly aided the genial influence of her neighbor's example. The rod silently disappeared from the table. If Peggy was disposed to be idle, it was only necessary to say: "When you have finished your work, you may go and ask whether Mrs. Fairweather wants any errands done." Bless me, how the fingers flew! Aunt Hetty had learned to use turnips instead of the cudgel.

When spring came, Mrs. Fairweather busied herself with planting roses and vines. Miss Turnpenny readily consented that Peggy should help her, and even refused to take any pay from such a good neighbor. But she maintained her own opinion that it was a mere waste of time to cultivate flowers. The cheerful philosopher never disputed the point; but she would sometimes say: "I have no room to plant this rose-bush, neighbor Turnpenny; would you be willing to let me set it on your side of the yard? It will take very little room, and will need no care." At another time she would say: "Well, really, my ground is too full. Here is a root of ladies' delight. How bright and pretty it looks! It seems a pity to throw it away. If you are willing, I will let Peggy plant it in what she calls her garden. It will grow of itself, without any care, and scatter seeds that will come up and blossom in all the chinks of the bricks. I love it. It seems such a bright, good-natured little thing." Thus, by degrees, the crabbed maiden found herself surrounded with flowers; and she even declared of her own accord, that they did look pretty.

One day, when Mrs. Lane called upon Mrs. Fairweather, she found the old weed-grown yard bright and blooming. Tab, quite fat and sleek, was asleep in the sunshine, with her paw upon Pink's neck, and little Peggy was singing at her work as blithe as a bird.

"How cheerful you look here!" said Mrs. Lane. "And so you have really taken the house for another year! Pray, how do you manage to get on with the neighbor-in-law?"

"I find her a very kind, obliging neighbor," replied Mrs. Fairweather.

"Well, that is a miracle!" exclaimed Mrs. Lane. "Nobody but you would have undertaken to thaw out Aunt Hetty's heart."

"That is probably the reason why it never was thawed," rejoined her friend. "I always told you that not having enough of sunshine was what ailed the world. Make people happy, and there will not be half the quarreling, or a tenth part of the wickedness there is."

From this gospel of joy, preached and practiced, nobody derived so much benefit as little Peggy. Her nature, which was fast growing crooked and knotty, under the malign influence of restraint and fear, straightened up, budded and blossomed in the genial atmosphere of cheerful kindness. Her affections and faculties were kept in such pleasant exercise, that constant lightness of heart made her almost handsome. The young music teacher thought her more than almost handsome, for his affectionate soul shone more beaming on him than on others; and love makes all things beautiful.

When the orphan removed to her pleasant little cottage on her wedding day, she threw her arms round the blessed missionary of sunshine, and said: "Ah, thou dear, good aunt, it is thou who hast made my life Fairweather!"

Ladies' Portfolio.

"HAPPY-GO-LUCKY."

BY GEORGE COOPER.

Happy-Go-Lucky has cheeks rosy red,
Ten times a day he will stand on his head.
Happy-Go-Lucky is brimful of fun,
Up in the morning as soon as the sun,
Sliding on banisters, all the way down,
Playing at circus and bumping his crown.
When he has shocked all the house with affright,
Off he goes, screaming with roguish delight.

Happy-Go-Lucky once climbed up a tree,
Just to look round and see what he could see.
Crack went the bough! such a terrible fall!
Didn't hurt Happy-Go-Lucky at all!
May be the fairies, with some potent charm,
Because he's so cheerful, have kept him from harm.
Mother so wishes that he would be still,
Only for once; but the rogue never will!

Happy-Go-Lucky runs out in the streets,
Asks in to dinner each beggar he meets;
Happy-Go-Lucky—how, just think of that—
Tied granny's spectacles on the poor cat!
When he knows mother is going to scold,
Up he trots gayly, in tears, I am told;
Then he will kiss her and hug her with joy,
Any one got such an out-and-out boy?

THE BOY JOHN.

S. C. Kendall says some very true and suggestive things about "The Boy John" in the April number of *Scribner's*. We quote as follows:

John is young. His tastes are unformed. His feelings are very far from being refined. In fact he is a little gross in his sympathies. He wants amusement. Every bone in his body aches for recreation, for play, fun, laughter. He does not care—he has never been taught to care—what the fun is, if only it will give relief to the fidget that stings him. Not at all refined, he will go for what he wants where others go. And going where others go, he finds the hunger of his nature coarsely met—just as tainted meat will fill the hunger of a starving man—in the low revelry, vile stories, unclean mirth of drinking-cellars and saloons. The boy does not discriminate very closely, and to the longing of his crude appetite the entertainment of these places is infinitely better than any he ever could find in that place which he has been taught to speak of as home. For eating and sleeping and getting his clothes mended, he feels that no place can be equal to a Christian home; but for a good time, for passing a dull evening hour, for learning something new, for words of cheer, for professions of sympathy, for those genial ways which a boy does love, and which any boy but Uriah Heep must love, John will tell even the minister to his face that home is nothing to a street corner, or a billiard-room with the attachment of a beer-shop.

Well, by and by, just before the clock strikes ten, the father wakes from his doze, the spectacles falling and the paper sliding upon the floor, and looking round with a bewildered gaze, asks, "where is John?"

Where is he? Why, for want of better instruction, he is out practicing our modern plan of training himself up in the way he likes to go, having no thought that when he is old he will care to depart from it. But the father who has inquired for his boy rubs his eyes, looks out into the darkness, and listens; but he hears him not. He wishes that his boy would not go out so of nights; but then he does go out. He wonders that John cannot sit down at home like other boys. What other boys? And then, with a very feeling remark that, "If John does not do better and become steady, he will make a miserable shirk of himself," the father goes to bed. The mother waits till her boy comes. By and by he does come in,—his restlessness blown off, the uneasy fidget of the early evening spent in relaxations which, of some kind, a boy must have,—and then at last the house is quiet. Sleep and rest prepare the household for another day and evening like these.

And what that other evening comes, out goes the boy again; and the father again wonders, and wishes that John would be steady and stay at home, and very feelingly predicts that, "If he does not change his course, he will very likely come to a miserable end."

But, good father, why should your boy spend his evenings at home? What is there at home for *him?* What pleasant recreation, what happy plan for whiling away the hour, does he find inviting him *there*, or that would invite any *boy* there? What have you done to make home attractive and winsome to him as *John's* home? He would like amusements suited to his young, restless, brimming nature; how much real thought and care did you ever give in schemes, devices, plans, efforts, with a view to meeting this passionate yearning of his mind? How much do you play with him, tell stories with him, make riddles with him, talk with him of what you have done and seen, of what your father did and saw? What games, what sports, what efforts at skill with slate and pencil, with knife, saw and gimlet, have you devised for him, while your look and action were saying, "My boy, I want you to love your home more than any other spot on earth?"

WILD PLANTS FOR HANGING BASKETS.

Those who have tried to grow the trailing arbutus in the parlor have usually failed, but a lady correspondent of the *Horticulturist* has succeeded in doing it for several consecutive seasons. "Early in April," she says, "as soon as the snow was gone, we gathered trailing arbutus, partridge-berry, (*Mitchella repens*) winter-green, (*Gaultheria procumbens*) ferns and moss, with sometimes a plant of the yellow-blossomed wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*). The basket was first lined with soft moss, and then filled with light forest mould. A strong root of fern was planted in the centre, the other plants filled in, and the whole kept well watered. For many weeks the basket was kept gay and fragrant with the successive blooms of the arbutus, and as they disappeared the delicate bells and bright scarlet berries of the *Mitchella*, nestling amid the rich foliage and soft moss, made a thing of beauty the entire season.

The conditions observed were: 1st. To renew the materials of the basket every spring. 2d. To select plants with good roots, growing in light leaf mould, and, in case of the arbutus, to obtain plants plentifully filled with buds. This plant will not form buds in a hanging basket; and, indeed, so far as my observation goes, it will only do so when growing over a rock. 3d. And quite as important as all the other items, the basket was kept well watered and in the shade. No sunshine was ever allowed to strike it, a cool situation near the north window being found the most favorable place for it."

How to do up Shirt Bosoms.—We have heard ladies express a desire to know by what process the fine gloss observable on new linens, shirt bosoms, &c., is produced, and, in order to gratify them, we submit the following receipt for making gum arabic starch:

"Take two ounces of fine white gum arabic powder; put it into a pitcher and pour on it a pint or more of boiling water—according to the degree of strength you desire—and then having covered it let it set all night. In the morning pour carefully from the dregs, into a clean bottle, cork it and keep it for use. A tablespoonful of gum water stirred into a pint of starch, made in the usual manner, will give to either white or printed laws, a look of newness when nothing else will restore them after washing. Much diluted, it is also good for thin muslin and bobinet."

Marriage.—There is no one thing more lovely in this life, more full of the divinest courage, than a young maiden about to separate herself from her past life, from her happy childhood, when she rambled over every field and moor around her home, when a mother anticipated her wants and soothed her little cares, when brothers and sisters grew from loving playmates to loving friends.

If a teaspoonful of genuine ground coffee be thrown into a tumblerful of cold water, it will float upon the surface of the water, while the substances usually used in adulterating coffees will sink under the same circumstances. If, when the suspected coffee is thrown upon cold water, part sinks at once, the sample is quite sure to be adulterated.

General Miscellany.

THREE PICTURES.

Across the hills stout oxen drew
The children home o'er early snow,
Where talked, with pipe and paunch and pun,
Our fathers fifty years ago;
Where as the kitchen fires blazed high,
Our mothers, toiling to and fro,
Of dear ones on the Genesee
Thought sadly, fifty years ago.

From Western valleys gladly speed
The children on their homeward way,
Where, reading Europe's last despatch,
Their fathers welcome them to-day;
Where, amid books and trailing vines,
The mothers find an hour to say,
By facile pen, how much they miss
Those boys, in mills and mines away.

By graceful car, on earth, through air,
From Western coast, from inland dome,
No child so far removed but wings
Of future skill may bring him home.
When kindred are so obedient,
Perhaps, on continents half way,
The mothers may fly out and bring
Their dear ones home Thanksgiving Day.

LAKE VILLAGES IN SWITZERLAND.

An interesting archeological discovery has recently been made on the shores of the Lake of Bienne. The Swiss Government has been for a long time endeavoring to drain a considerable track of land between the two lakes of Morat and Bienne, but in order to do this effectually it has been found necessary to lower the level of the latter by cutting a canal from it to the Lake of Neufchatel. At the beginning of the present year the sluices were opened and the waters of the Lake of Bienne allowed to flow into that of Neufchatel. Up to the present time the level of the Bieler See has fallen upward of three feet, and this fall has brought to light a number of stakes driven firmly into the bed of the lake. This fact becoming known, a number of Swiss archæologists visited the spot, and it was decided to remove the soil round these stakes to see whether any remains of a Lacustrine village, which they suspected had been raised upon them, could be traced. At a distance of between five and six feet from the present bed of the lake the workmen came upon a large number of objects of various kinds, which have been collected and are at present under the costody of Dr. Gross, of Locrass. Among them are pieces of cord made from hemp, vases, stags' horns, stone hatchets, and utensils used apparently for cooking. The most precious specimen is, however, a hatchet made of nephrite (the name given to a peculiarly hard kind of stone from which the Lacustrines formed their cutting instruments.) The hatchet is sixteen centimetres long by seven broad, and is by far the largest yet discovered in any part of Switzerland, no other collection having any measuring more than eight centimetres in length. A quantity of the bones found at the same time have been sent to Dr. Uhlmann, of Muchenbuchsee, for examination by him, and he finds that they belong to the following animals, viz.; stag, horse, ox, wild boar, pig, goat, beaver, dog, mouse, &c., together with a large number of human bones. If the level of the lake continues to sink, it is hoped that further discoveries will be made, and the scientific world is waiting the result of the engineering operations with keen interest.—*The Standard.*

HOW FAME VANISHES IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. H. Ramsdell writes the following concerning Admiral Wilkes: "A few days ago, I happened in at one of the handsome committee-rooms of the Capitol, where three or four clerks, a messenger or two, one or two loafers, and perhaps two or three Congressmen, were whiling away a half-hour or so. They were smoking, laughing and story-telling. While a peal of laughter which followed some joke was dying out, the door opened and an old man entered the room. His form was shrunk and bent, his eyes without brightness, his face withered and pinched, and his hair gray. His under-jaw hung down and his lips were unclosed. His dress, merely ordinary, inclined to shabbiness. His head was covered with a fatigue cap, navy pattern, with an unusually large visor or forepiece. No attention was paid to the old gentleman. He approached one of the young men, and removing his hat asked for certain information. A polite answer was given, but no unusual attention was paid to the old gentleman, and he tottered out of the room. His coming and his going excited no remark; it was a usual circumstance for people of all grades and ages to make inquiries in that room, and such as go there are answered courteously, but briefly. There was nothing unusual in this case, only I happened to know the old man. His is only another of the cases that every day occur to remind us of the mutability of human affairs. See what a change is here. Ten years ago the world was ringing with this man's name. He was shouted from the West Indians, it thrilled the West and the East; it was borne across the Atlantic, taken up in Great Britain and echoed across the channel into France. Returning, it resounded from the Potomac to the Gulf of Mexico, and was cheered by hundreds of thousands of soldiers who were camped about this city. Songs were sung for him; addresses were made to him; his picture was for sale at every newspaper stand; the press teemed with his praise; the government honored him, the whole country was proud of him; wherever he went he was honored, the boys in the streets took off their hats to him,—he was the lion everywhere, in the streets, at the hotel, in society, at church; wherever he went, everybody did homage to him. Now, see the change!—there are now "none so poor to do him reverence."

A FISH SAVINGS BANK.

They must have some good heads in the Russian Government—the proof of which appears in a curious kind of savings bank established in Siberia. The inhabitants of the northwestern part of that region live substantially upon salmon, which enter the streams in summer to spawn. Then the natives take immense quantities of the fish, dry them and lay by a supply to last till the next season. But about every third or fourth year on the average—though with considerable irregularity—the salmon do not appear, and the consequence is a famine, which, falling first upon the dog teams of the people, disables the latter from drawing supplies from other quarters. To prevent the terrible sufferings which have arisen from this cause, the Russian Government established at Kolyma, a Russian post on the Arctic Ocean, a sort of savings bank with a capital of one hundred thousand dried fish purchased from the natives and stored away. Then a law was enacted compelling every adult male inhabitant of the settlement to pay into the bank annually one-tenth of all the fish he caught, and no excuse for a failure was admitted—this continuing as long as the fish season remained good. But when there was a failure of the salmon and starvation impended, every depositor was entitled to borrow from the bank fish enough for his regular supplies, on condition of repayment next year. This bank, at the last advices, had carried the people through two consecutive years of famine, and accumulated a capital of 300,000 dried fish, and was still accumulating at the rate of 20,000 a year. It was thus on the road to wealth, besides being a fountain of beneficence to the people. It is the principle of Joseph's management in Egypt, with all the modern improvements required by the state of society in Siberia.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

If Great Britain possesses a formidable navy, this much cannot be said with reference to her army establishment. By vote of the House of Commons, the British army for the year 1872-73 will consist of 133,649, men of whom 54,000 are available for home service, the remainder being on duty in India and the colonies. This force consists of recruits—*voluntary* recruits, it is claimed—but the devices often resorted to by the recruiting officers necessitates some qualification of the term. Still, as neither conscription nor "draft" are permissible in the recruitment of the army, the process in vogue approaches very closely the volunteer system, which, as might be anticipated in view of the very small pay of the private soldier and his bum-drum life of complete subordination to popinjay officers, is a rather slow one. It is doubtful, we think, whether in the improbable event of an appeal to arms against the United States on the present grounds of difference, enlistments would be hastened, and without an immediate augmentation it is clear that no offensive movement on land could be undertaken. In the event of a foreign invasion, however, the British people would spring to arms, and having a force of 50,000 regulars for a nucleus, might become formidable as a defensive force. But at present no fact is more palpable than that, so far as her land forces are concerned, Great Britain is in no condition to conduct an offensive war against this country. For the sake of peace and the best interests of humanity, we trust her *inclination* is in unison with her capabilities; since, whatever the result of the present complication, assurance of continued amity between us will be made doubly sure.

Cundurango not a Cure in Cancer.—After a lengthened trial of this drug in the cancer wards of the Middlesex hospital, the surgeons at that institution, Mr. De Morgan and Mr. Hulke, who carried out the investigation, have arrived at the conclusion that *cundurango has no effect whatever on cancer.* At the meeting of the clinical society of London on the 9th instant, papers were read by these two gentlemen on the subject, in which they distinctly stated that not one single indication of improvement had been observed in any of the cases treated by his alleged remedy. In fact, the disease either ran its usual course, or the patients showed symptoms of derangements of system which might fairly be attributed to the drug. Mr. De Morgan alluded to the fact that a large number of persons in this country, in the belief that the reports which had come to us from certain sources in America contained some truth, were paying exorbitant prices for cundurango. He referred at the same time to the alleged cures of cancer by cundurango. Some of these had come under his own personal observation, and he found that they were mere fabrications. A feeling was strongly expressed at the meeting of the society that *the public should be made aware of the utter worthlessness of cundurango as a remedy for cancer.* Many of those afflicted by the disease are spending large sums of money in purchasing the drug, while much valuable time for the employment of other means of relieving, if not, indeed, of curing the disease, is being lost.—*British Medical Journal, February 17, 1872.*

Correspondence in Great Britain.—The total number of letters delivered in 1870 in the United Kingdom was 831,914,000; an increase of about 30,000,000 on the previous year. Indeed 30,000,000 may be regarded as the annual increase on these already astounding figures. Of these letters 4,000,000 were returned, and they were thus disposed of: nearly 3,000,000 were restored to the writers; upward of 100,000 were re-issued to "corrected addresses" (showing the care of the Post-office in amending the errors or carelessness of the writers;) and upward of 200,000 were destroyed, in utter hopelessness of finding the owners. It is very suggestive to find that nearly 15,000 letters were posted without any address; and, more strange still, that 256 of these contained money to the aggregate of £2,810. The gross number of letters, divided by the population and the inhabited houses, gives an average of 26 letters to each person, and 149 to each house.—*Belgravia.*

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The public are cordially invited to visit our new warehouse, and examine our
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Next door above our old store. 6w14

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ASPARAGUS, STRAWBERRY AND other small Fruits.
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Raspberries, Currants, Strawberries,
all the leading and most of the new varieties.
Send for circular stating the quantity wanted.
JOHN B. MOORE.
Also, EGGS for Hatching, Light Brahma, $1,00 per doz.; Rouen Ducks, (first premium at Boston.) Apply to J. H. MOORE, Concord, Mass.
Concord, Mass., April 5th, 1872. 6w14

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All the above are warranted to be pure and true to their name.
For Sale at the Lowest Prices at
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4w13

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of JOSEPH REYNOLDS, late of Concord, in said County, Physician, deceased, Greeting: Whereas, certain Instruments purporting to be the last Will and Testament of said deceased and a codicil have been presented to said Court, for Probate, by Lucy P. Reynolds, of said Concord, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to her, the executrix therein named, and that she may be exempt from giving a surety or sureties on her bond pursuant to said will and statute; You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge in said County of Middlesex, on the fourth Tuesday of April, A. D., 1872, at nine o'clock before noon, to show cause, if any you have, against the same. And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once a week, for three successive weeks, in the newspaper called the New England Farmer, printed at Boston; the last publication to be two days, at least, before said Court.
Witness, WM. A. RICHARDSON, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this eighteenth day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.
3w14 J. H. TYLER, Register.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the Heirs-at-law, Next of Kin, and all other Persons Interested in the estate of ANNA D. M. BLANCHARD, late of Wilmington, in said County, Middlesex, single woman, deceased, Greeting: Whereas, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by Isaac Pratt, Junior, of Brighton in said County, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him, the executor therein named. You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the fourth Tuesday of April, at nine o'clock before noon, to show cause, if any you have, against the same. And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once a week, for three successive weeks, in the new